You'
my Pet
6
Yayoi Ogawa

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6

You're My Pet

BY YAYOI OGAWA

VOL. 6

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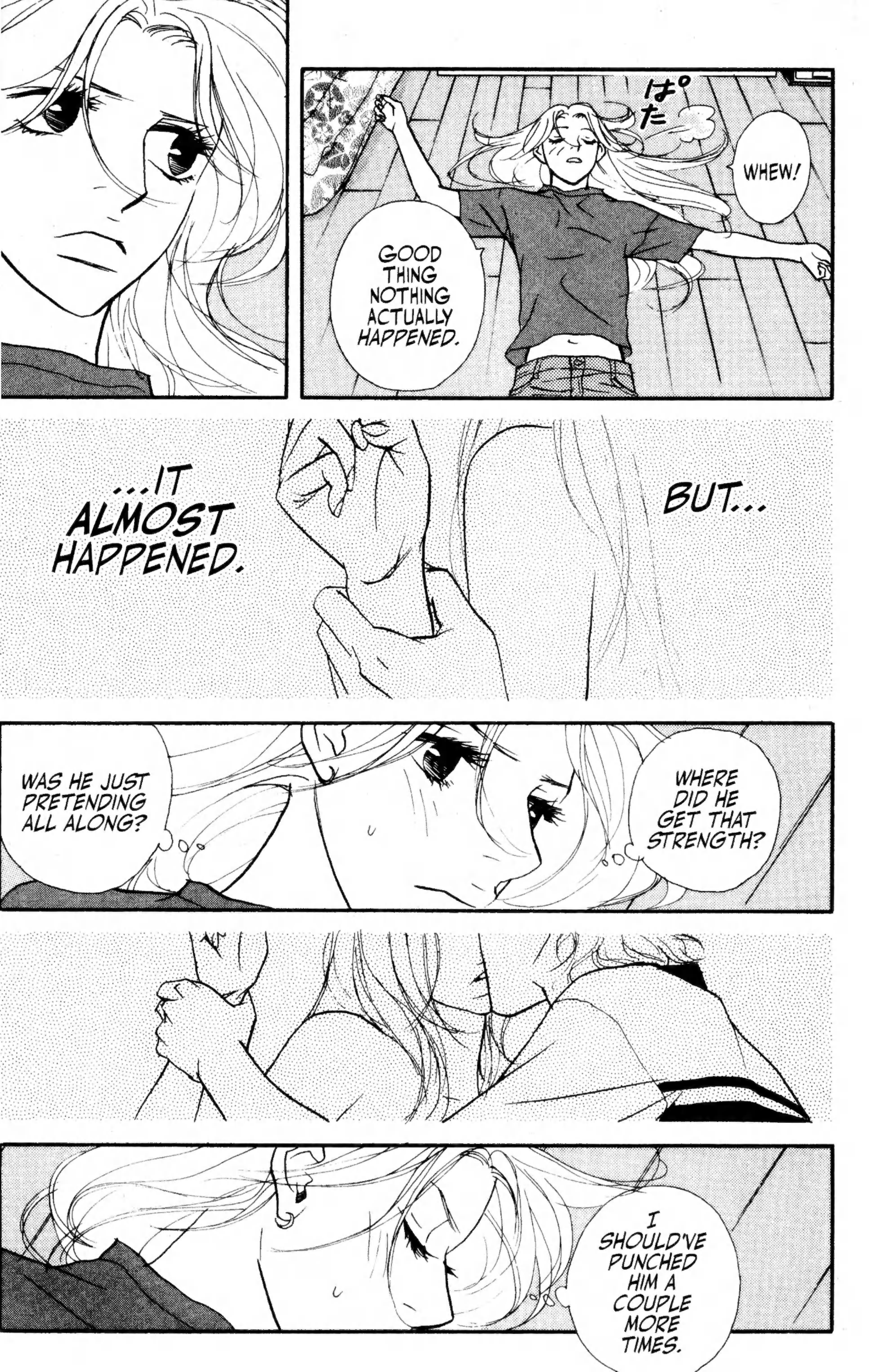
Rule 29
YOUR PET'S PRIVATE LIFE

MOMO THE FIRST WAS TERRIFIED OF THUNDER.
I ALWAYS FELT A SPECIAL WARMTH WHEN I HUGGED HER TREMBLING BODY.
......
ガバッ
....
BARRICADE

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FOREHEAD?
ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY BLOW DRYER.
...BLOW DRYER...?
YEAH. OUR CHOREOGRAPHER IS A STRICT DISCIPLINARIAN.
...DISCI-PLINE...?
?
NON!
PAS COMME CA! (THAT'S ALL WRONG!)
ECOUTEZ LA MUSIQUE! (LISTEN TO THE MUSIC!)
I CAN'T SEEM TO GET THE CODA RIGHT.
YEAH. AND OUR PAS DE DROIT IS PRETTY UNSTABLE...

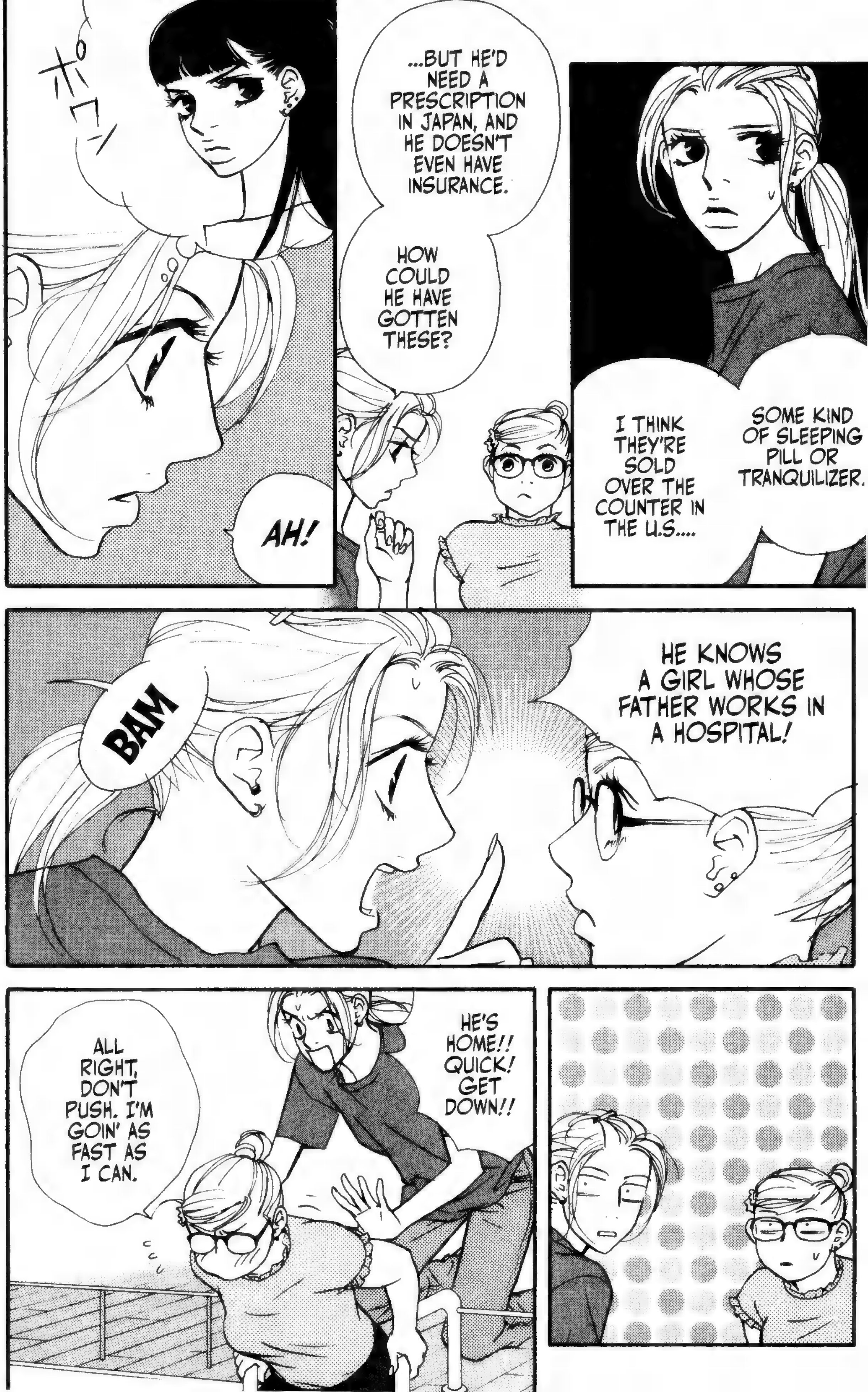
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO CALM, TAKESHI. IT'S GREAT.
YEAH... IT KEEPS US FROM GETTING STRESSED OUT!
Smile
WELL...
...WE'LL MAKE IT THROUGH SOMEHOW.
......
...HE'S NOT HERE.
SNEAK...



ぱた
WHEW!
GOOD THING NOTHING ACTUALLY HAPPENED.
BUT...
...IT ALMOST HAPPENED.
WHERE DID HE GET THAT STRENGTH?
WAS HE JUST PRETENDING ALL ALONG?
I SHOULD'VE PUNCHED HIM A COUPLE MORE TIMES.

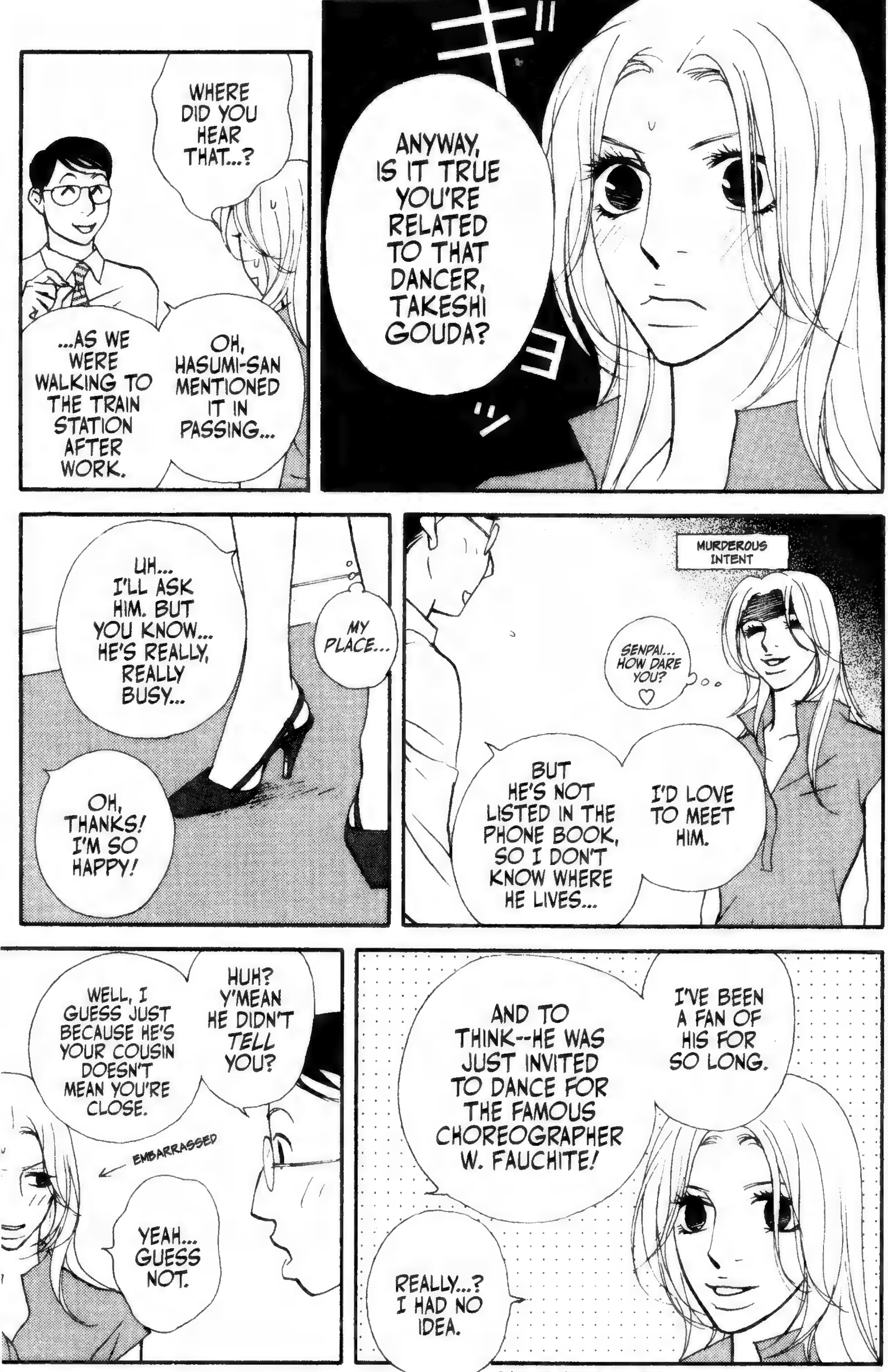
...DAMN.
badum
WHY'S MY HEART POUNDING SO HARD?
I HATE THIS!
badum
badum
rustl
?

WHAT DO YOU NEED MY HELP FOR?
MORAL SUPPORT... IN CASE I DISCOVER SOMETHING SHOCKING.
LIKE WHAT? HIS PORN COLLECTION?
AH, HERE WE GO! LABELED "TOP SECRET."
EH, I ALREADY CHECKED THAT.
TOP SECRET!
DO NOT OPEN!
LOTS OF PLUSHIE TOYS.
YEAH... HE ONLY *THINKS* THOSE ARE SECRET.
I JUST HOPE HE DIDN'T STEAL 'EM.
SO HOW COME YOU'RE DOING THIS *NOW* ALL OF A SUDDEN?
NOT THAT IT ISN'T FUN, BUT...
HEY... WHAT'S THAT MEDICINE FOR?

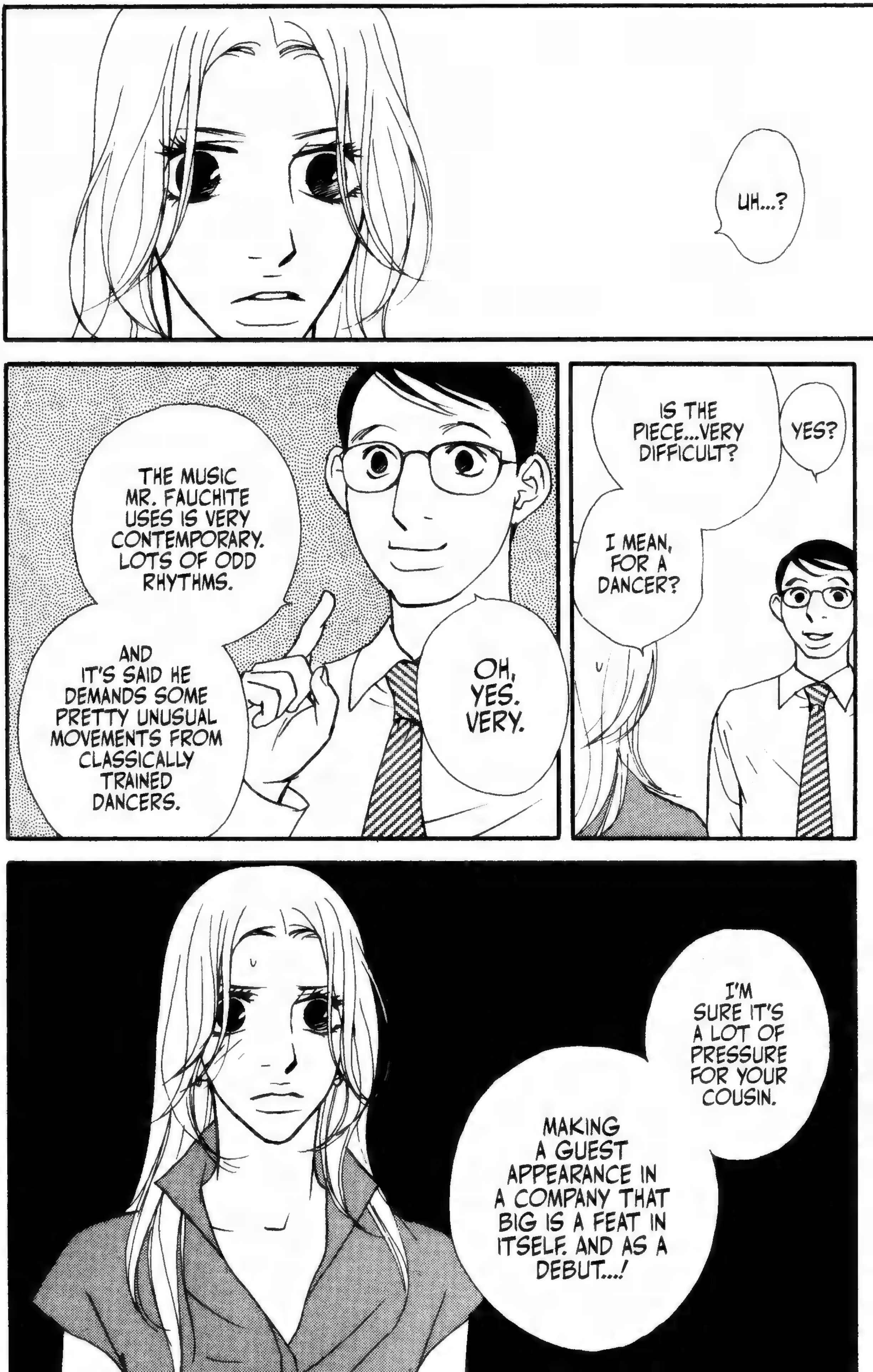

SOME KIND OF SLEEPING PILL OR TRANQUILIZER.
I THINK THEY'RE SOLD OVER THE COUNTER IN THE U.S....
...BUT HE'D NEED A PRESCRIPTION IN JAPAN, AND HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE INSURANCE.
HOW COULD HE HAVE GOTTEN THESE?
AH!
HE KNOWS A GIRL WHOSE FATHER WORKS IN A HOSPITAL!
BAM
HE'S HOME!! QUICK! GET DOWN!!
ALL RIGHT, DON'T PUSH. I'M GOIN' AS FAST AS I CAN.

ガチャ
HI!
YOU'RE BACK!
EMPTY
MMM, COOKIES!
YEAH, I BAKED THESE! WOULD YOU LIKE ONE?
BUCKWHEAT COOKIES
YOU KNOW IT!
BUT FIRST I'M GONNA TAKE A SHOWER. LEAVE SOME FOR ME, 'KAY?
PASSIONATE RED ROSE! ♪
HE'S ACTING A LITTLE *TOO* NORMAL.
I KNOW. IT'S SCARY.
AND JEALOUSYYY
PLEASE-- STAY THE NIGHT, YURI-CHAN!
DON'T LEAVE ME WITH HIM!
NO THANKS. I DIDN'T BRING ANY DIAPERS.
AND I HAVE A DOG AT HOME, TOO.

GREAT. SO I'M ON MY OWN.
BUT IF ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENS, LET ME KNOW, OKAY?
LOVES GOSSIP
PETS SHOULD BE DISCIPLINED!
STRICT
BESIDES, AN OWNER SHOULDN'T BE AFRAID OF HER PET.
WELL, NOTHING UNUSUAL HAS HAPPENED TODAY SO FAR...
MS. IWAYA!
BOY, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
I SAID HI EVERY DAY...
I'M SORRY... YOU ARE...?
NISHIDA FROM THE CULTURE DEPARTMENT. I WAS IN THE CUBICLE NEXT TO YOURS...
...'TIL LAST MONTH.



THIS IS NEWS TO HER.


UH...?
YES?
IS THE PIECE...VERY DIFFICULT?
I MEAN, FOR A DANCER?
OH, YES. VERY.
THE MUSIC MR. FAUCHITE USES IS VERY CONTEMPORARY. LOTS OF ODD RHYTHMS.
AND IT'S SAID HE DEMANDS SOME PRETTY UNUSUAL MOVEMENTS FROM CLASSICALLY TRAINED DANCERS.
I'M SURE IT'S A LOT OF PRESSURE FOR YOUR COUSIN.
MAKING A GUEST APPEARANCE IN A COMPANY THAT BIG IS A FEAT IN ITSELF. AND AS A DEBUT...!

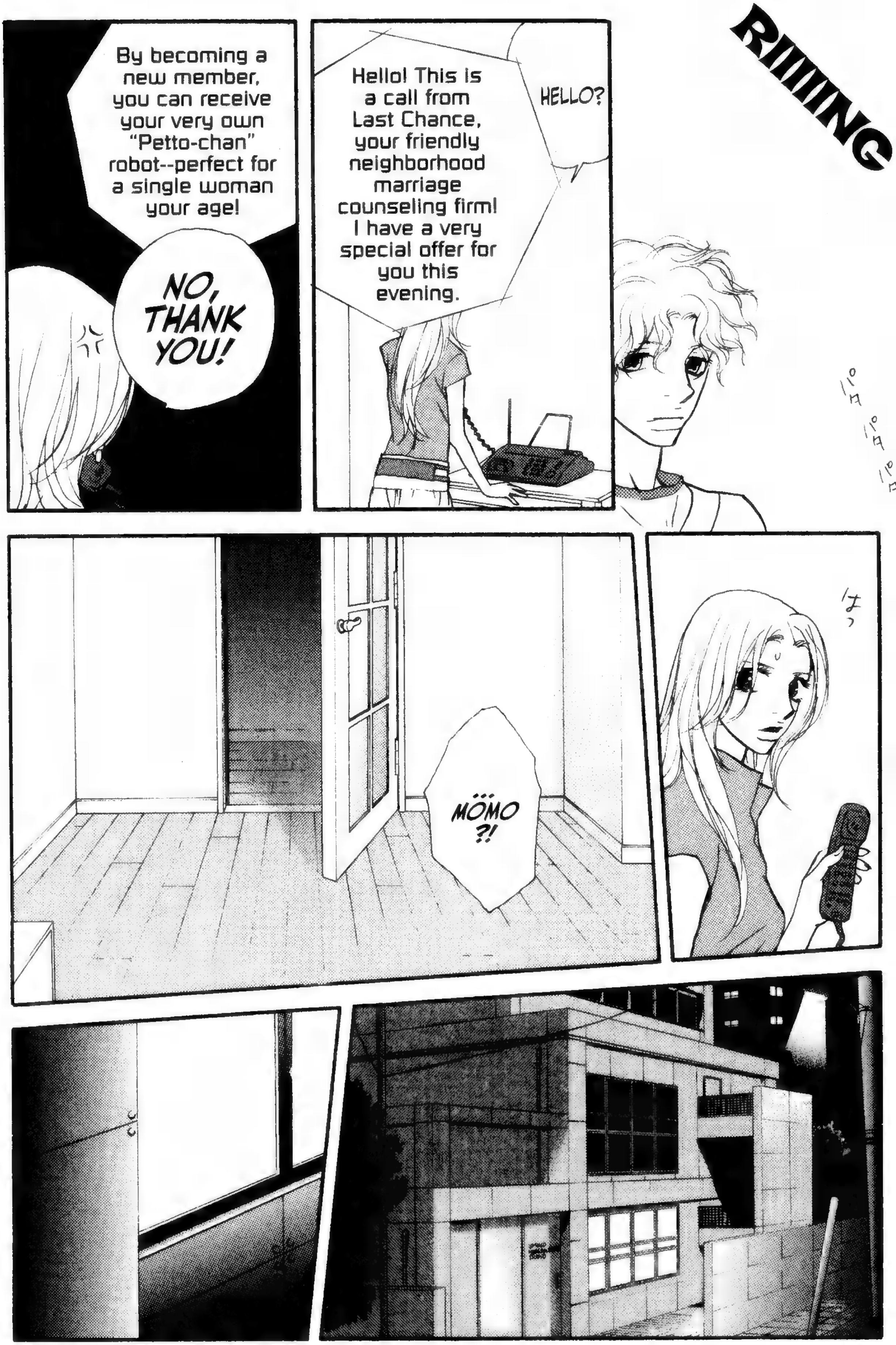
I CAN'T DO IT!
I'M BEHIND BY HALF A BEAT FOR THE LIFT!
SOMETIMES EVEN MORE THAN HALF!
ME, TOO.
HOW COME I HAVE TO DO THE LIFT WITH TAKESHI-KUN, ANYWAY?
YOU'D BE BETTER...I MEAN, YOU'RE STRONGER.
STOP IT, MIKI.
AH...
...SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID IT THAT WAY.
IT'S JUST...
...I'M VERY CONCERNED... YOU KNOW.
YOUR ANXIETY IS INFECTIOUS.
AND I'M THE CAUSE OF IT.
LET'S TAKE A BREAK, SHALL WE?

I'M HOME...
...MOMO?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
GOING SOMEWHERE?
YEAH.
I'LL BE STAYING AT MY FRIEND'S FOR A WHILE.
WHY? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE BACK.

HEY.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOUR PERFORMANCE?
IS IT BECAUSE...
...YOU DIDN'T THINK I COULD HELP?
WAIT.
MOMO...

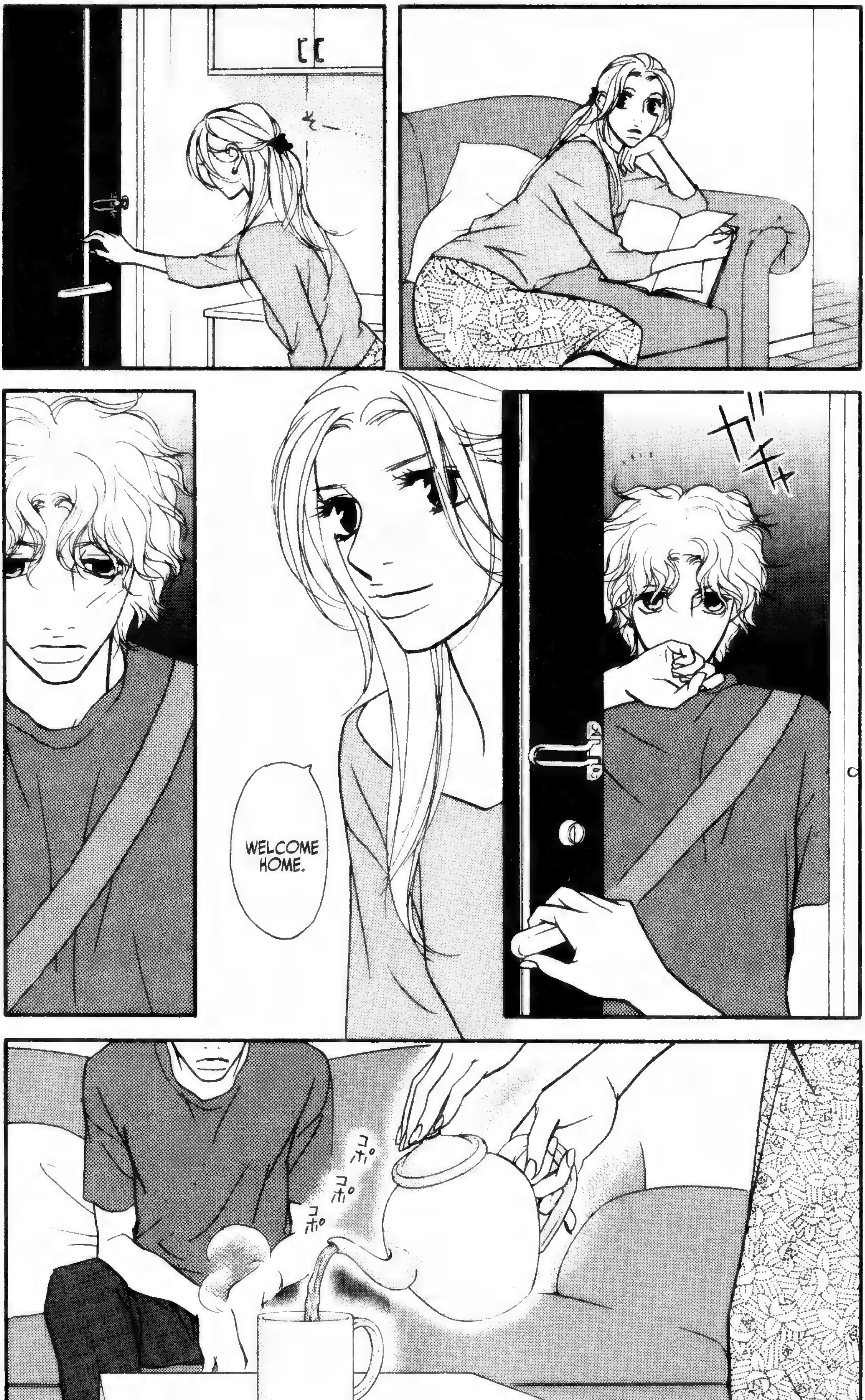
YOUR PET NEEDS SOME SPACE!
YOU THINK A PET IS SUPPOSED TO SIT QUIETLY AT HOME SO YOU CAN PLAY WITH IT WHENEVER YOU WANT?
WELL, SOMETIMES I NEED MORE THAN--
STOP IT!!
THAT'S NOT THE MOMO I KNOW!

THEN...
...WHAT?
WHAT WOULD YOUR MOMO SAY?
MOMO... WOULD...
RIIIING
Jump


RIIIING
HELLO?
Hello! This is a call from Last Chance, your friendly neighborhood marriage counseling firm! I have a very special offer for you this evening.
By becoming a new member, you can receive your very own "Petto-chan" robot--perfect for a single woman your age!
NO, THANK YOU!
...MOMO ?!

HUFF
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS...
HUFF
...NO MATTER HOW FAST I MAKE THE JUMPS, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE THE LIFT ON THE BEAT.
SHIT!
ROLL ROLL...

...ALL I COULD DO WAS WAIT.
WATCHING HIM, I REALIZED...
BUT I'M SURE HE'LL COME HOME.
I'M SURE...
AHH-CHOO!


そー
ガチャ
WELCOME HOME.
コポ
コポ
コポ

THE PERFORMANCE IS TOMORROW ...
UH-HUH.
...CAN I SLEEP HERE TONIGHT?
OF COURSE.
THIS IS YOUR HOME.
......
YOU'VE ALWAYS SUPPORTED ME, SUMIRE.

NO MATTER HOW HARD MY DAY IS...
...I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO COME HOME AND BE YOUR "MOMO."
I...I LIKE BEING "MOMO."
I LIKE BEING...
...WITH YOU.
....
ギュッ
HE'S SHAKING.

DON'T WORRY...
...IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED.
BUT IT'S OKAY.
EVERY-THING'S GOING TO BE FINE.
IF ONLY I COULD LIVE IN THIS MOMENT FOREVER...
EVEN IF THE EARTH WERE DESTROYED, I WOULDN'T CARE. (YES, I KNOW THAT'S SELFISH.)

BUT...
...I HAVE TO MOVE ON.
NO WAY!
I'LL MAKE IT.
NO--IF I LAND A LITTLE EARLIER, I CAN SUPPORT YOUR TURN. WE JUST HAVE TO MOVE SLIGHTLY LEFT OF OUR ORIGINAL POINT.
IT CAN'T BE THAT SIMPLE!
BUT IT IS.
OKAY... LET'S TRY IT.
ONE.
TWO.
THREE.
FOUR.

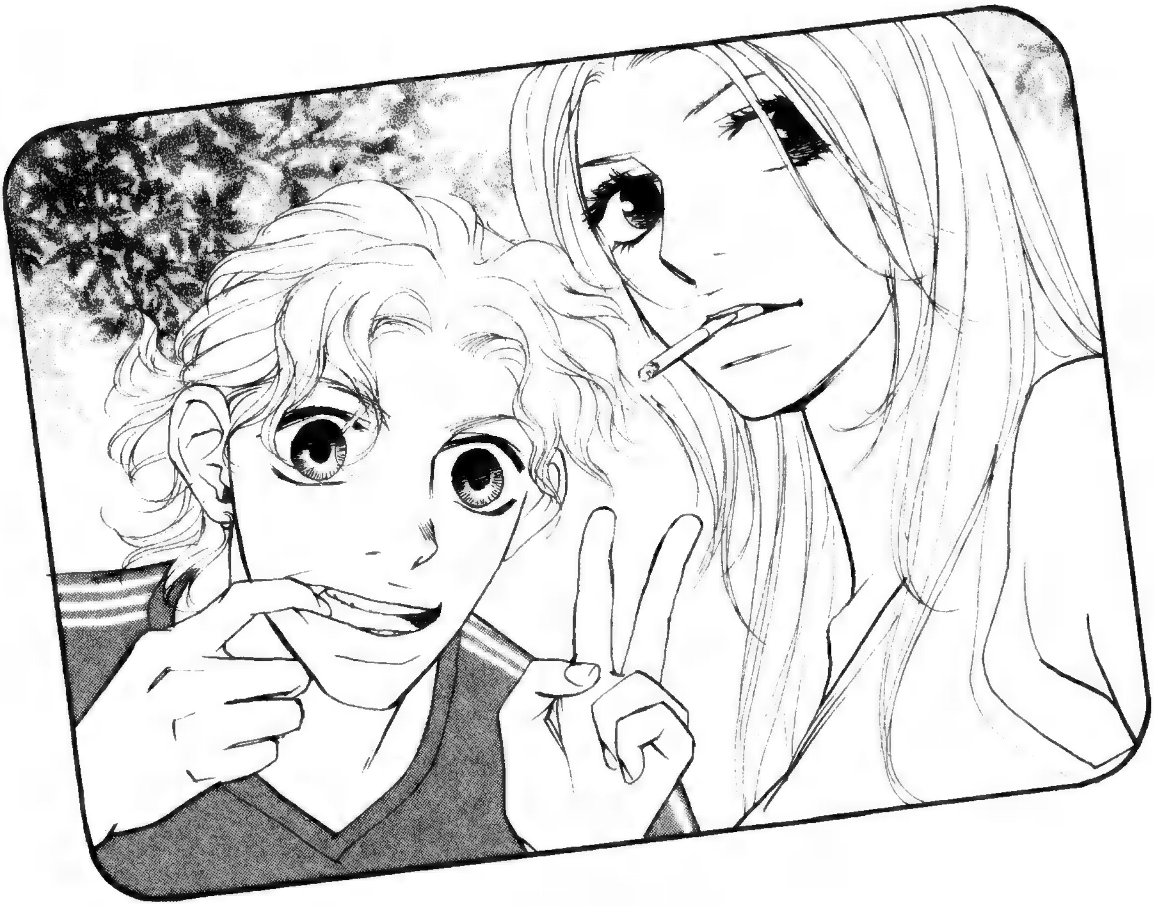
FIVE.
SIX.
ONE.
TWO.
Strain
ONE!
YOU GOT IT!

AND DURING THAT DRESS REHEARSAL JUST BEFORE THE OPENING...
...I SAW MR. FAUCHITE NODDING IN APPROVAL.
I'M ONE LUCKY DEVIL, AREN'T I?
WHOA!! WHAT'S WITH THE DRESS?!
SUMIRE!
IT'S CUTE, HUH? I'M DANCING WITH A GIRL IN THE SAME COSTUME.
IT'S A PARODY OF CLASSICAL BALLET. VERY MODERN.
UHH... ...I DON'T REALLY GET IT.
BUT YOU DO LOOK GOOD.
MAYBE THIS IS WHAT HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT.

Chu
OKAY...
...I'M UP.
BREAK A LEG!
I, TAKESHI GOUDA, WILL DO MY BEST...
...TO BE YOUR MOMO.

Rule30

ON MYSTERIOUS TRIPS • PART 1



IN OUR VILLAGE, THERE IS AN OLD FOLK TALE.
IT SAYS THAT MOTHERS WHO DIE AND LEAVE BEHIND THEIR FAMILIES BECOME MERMAIDS WHO LIVE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE...
...LIVING ON TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN.
LOOK, SUMIRE! UP IN THE SKY! IT'S A BIRD!
IS THAT A FALCON? OR AN EAGLE?
OR MAYBE A CONDOR?
......
HEYYY GOLDEN CONDOR... ♪
THERE ARE NO CONDORS IN JAPAN.

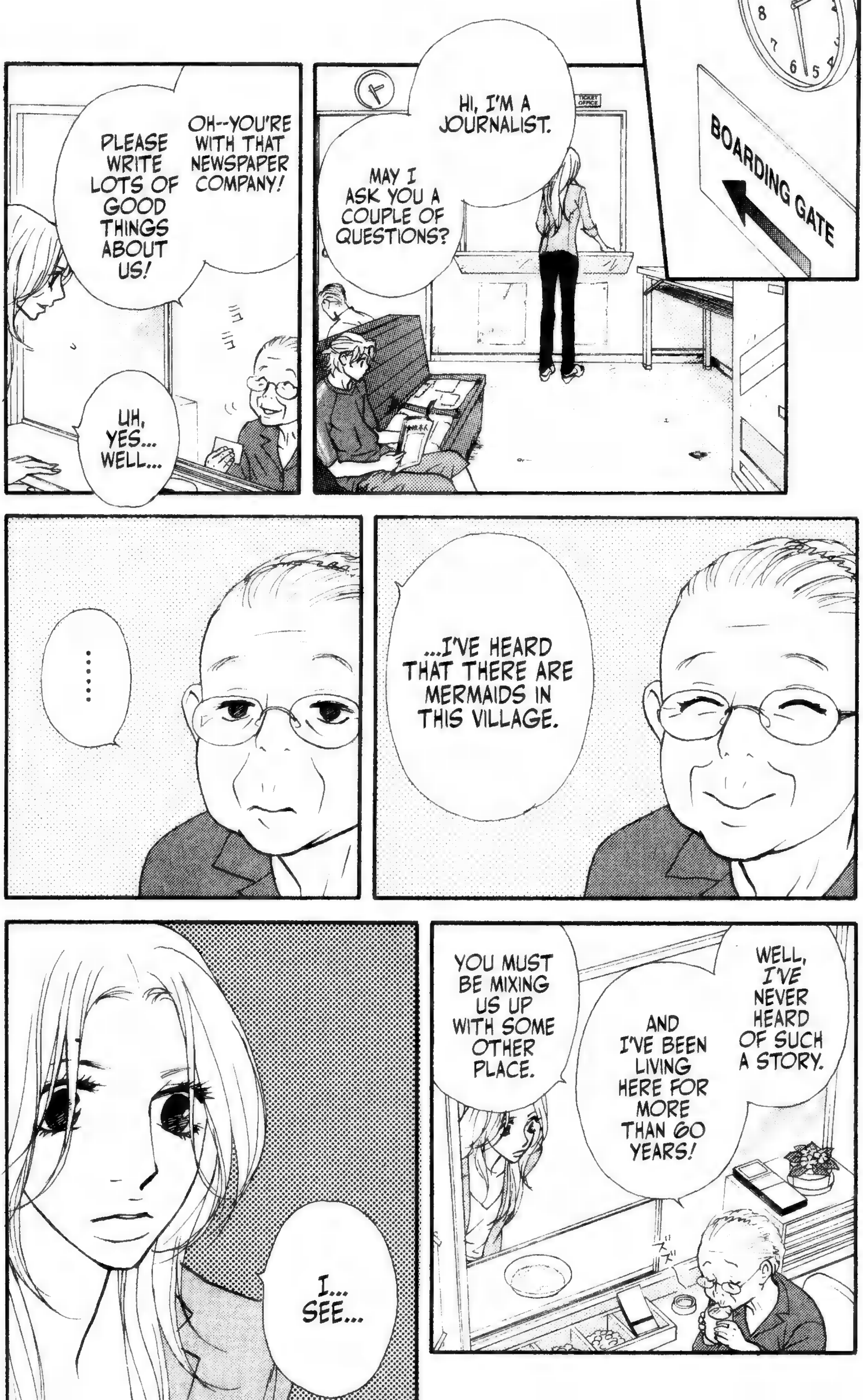
*A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE SNACK MADE FROM SEASONED SEAWEED.

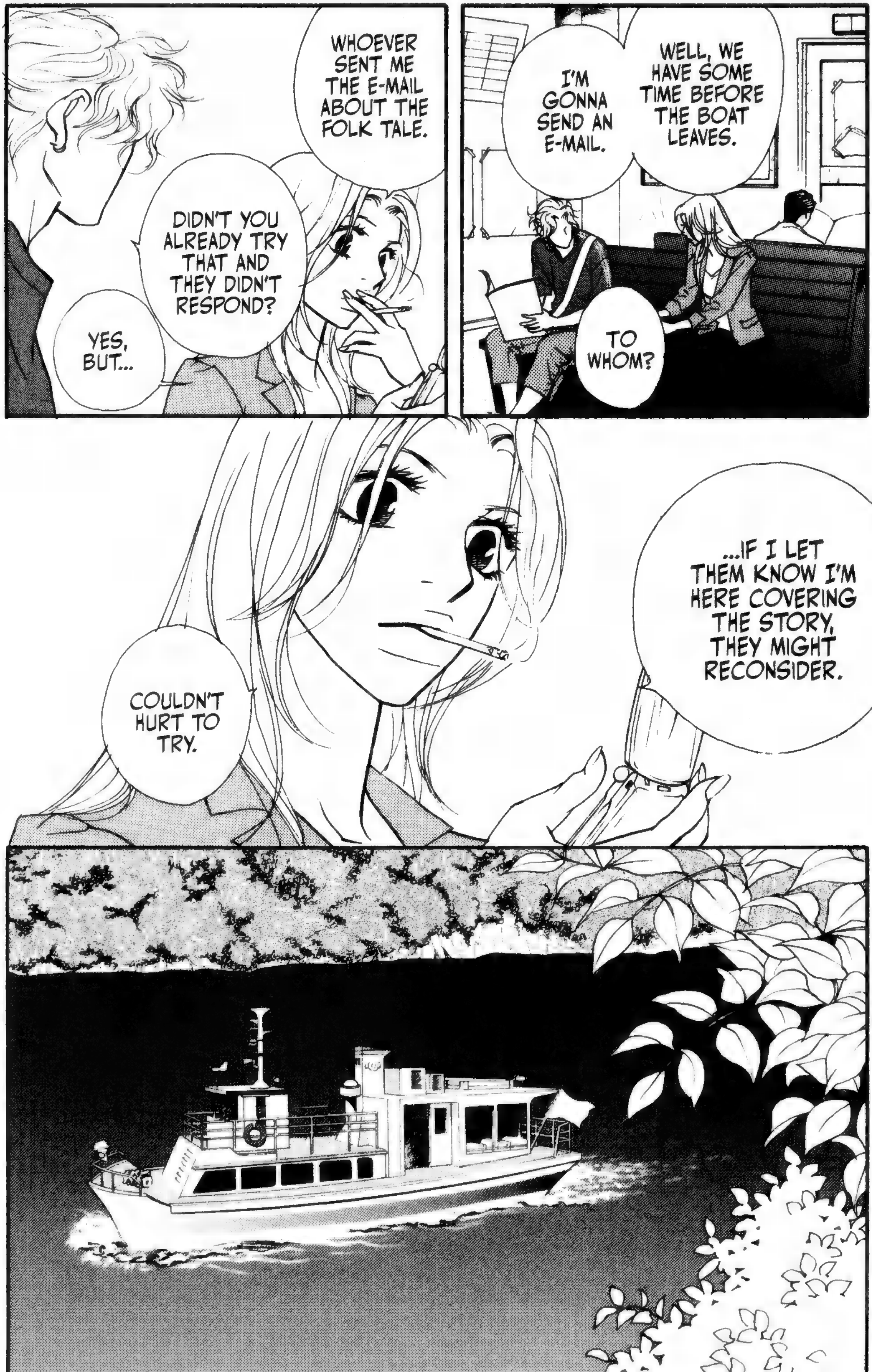
*ANOTHER TRADITIONAL SNACK. TASTES LIKE PLUM-FLAVORED MINTS.

YEAH. I THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE FOR AN INTERESTING ENGLISH ARTICLE...
...BUT MY STAFF DOESN'T AGREE.
How Silly!
HUGH AND EMMA ARE ONE MEAN TEAM.
SHALL I GO WITH YOU?
HUH?
I HAVE THREE DAYS OF VACATION TIME LEFT.
AND WE HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TAKE A TRIP IN A WHILE...
A WEEKEND TOGETHER... JUST ME AND HASUMI... ♡
THAT'S WHAT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE, ANYWAY.
HEY-- THEY HAVE COD AND SALMON!
STAND-IN
IT'S NOT HIS FAULT SOMETHING URGENT CAME UP AT WORK.
CHEER UP, SUMIRE.

AND HE'S GOING TO HONG KONG SOON, Y'KNOW.
IF YOU VISIT, YOU CAN GO SIGHTSEEING TOGETHER!
THANKS. JUST WHAT I NEEDED TO HEAR.
I CAN'T WAIT TO GET THERE AND SEE THE VIEW. ♡
WILL YOU BE QUIET FOR FIVE MINUTES?!
SO, WHERE TO, KIDS? HEADING FOR HEKISUI-KAN?
THAT'S RIGHT.
VERY GOOD INN. THEY'VE GOT THEIR OWN HOT SPRINGS.
VERY ISOLATED, OF COURSE, BUT THAT'S THE CHARM.
PITY IT'S GOING TO BE TORN DOWN IN THE FALL.
IS...IS THAT RIGHT?

DO YOU KNOW THE FOLK TALE ABOUT THE MERMAIDS?
HUH?
IT'S COMING UP REAL SOON. AND THERE'S A NEW TOWN BY THE LAKE.
YUP. THEY'RE BUILDING A TOLL ROAD OVER THE MOUNTAIN TO CONNECT TO THE HIGHWAY.
THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE WILL BE GLAD TO SEE A HIGHWAY.
WELL, I'M NOT REALLY FROM THE AREA.
THE OLD LADY AT THE WHARF MIGHT KNOW IT, THOUGH.
THAT'S ONE HUGE APARTMENT COMPLEX.
YEAH, I DIDN'T REALLY RESEARCH THIS TRIP.
I THINK THERE'S A VISITOR CENTER WE CAN CHECK OUT TOMORROW.

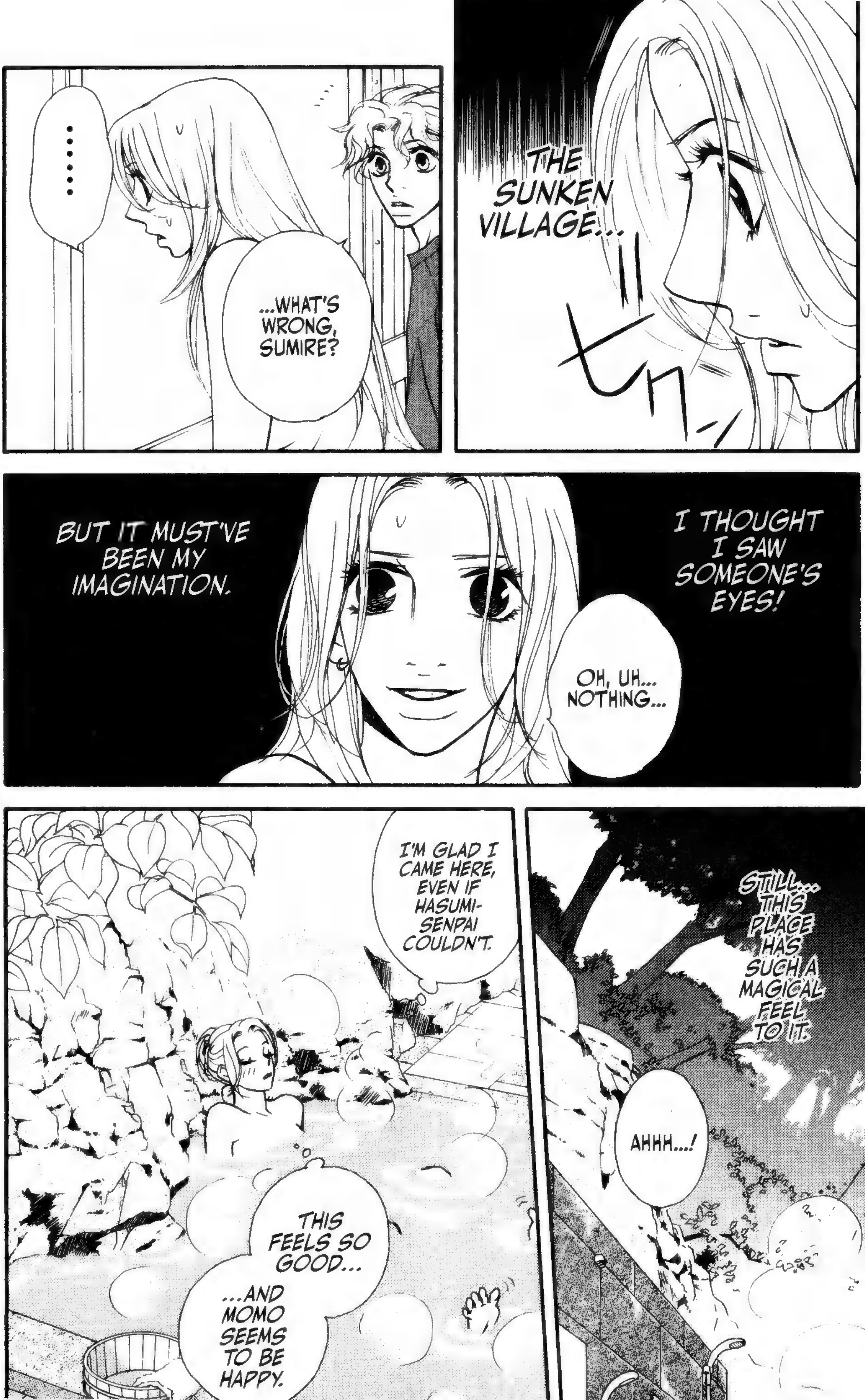

BOARDING GATE
TICKET OFFICE
HI, I'M A JOURNALIST.
MAY I ASK YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS?
OH--YOU'RE WITH THAT NEWSPAPER COMPANY!
PLEASE WRITE LOTS OF GOOD THINGS ABOUT US!
UH, YES... WELL...
...I'VE HEARD THAT THERE ARE MERMAIDS IN THIS VILLAGE.
......
WELL, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A STORY.
AND I'VE BEEN LIVING HERE FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS!
YOU MUST BE MIXING US UP WITH SOME OTHER PLACE.
I... SEE...

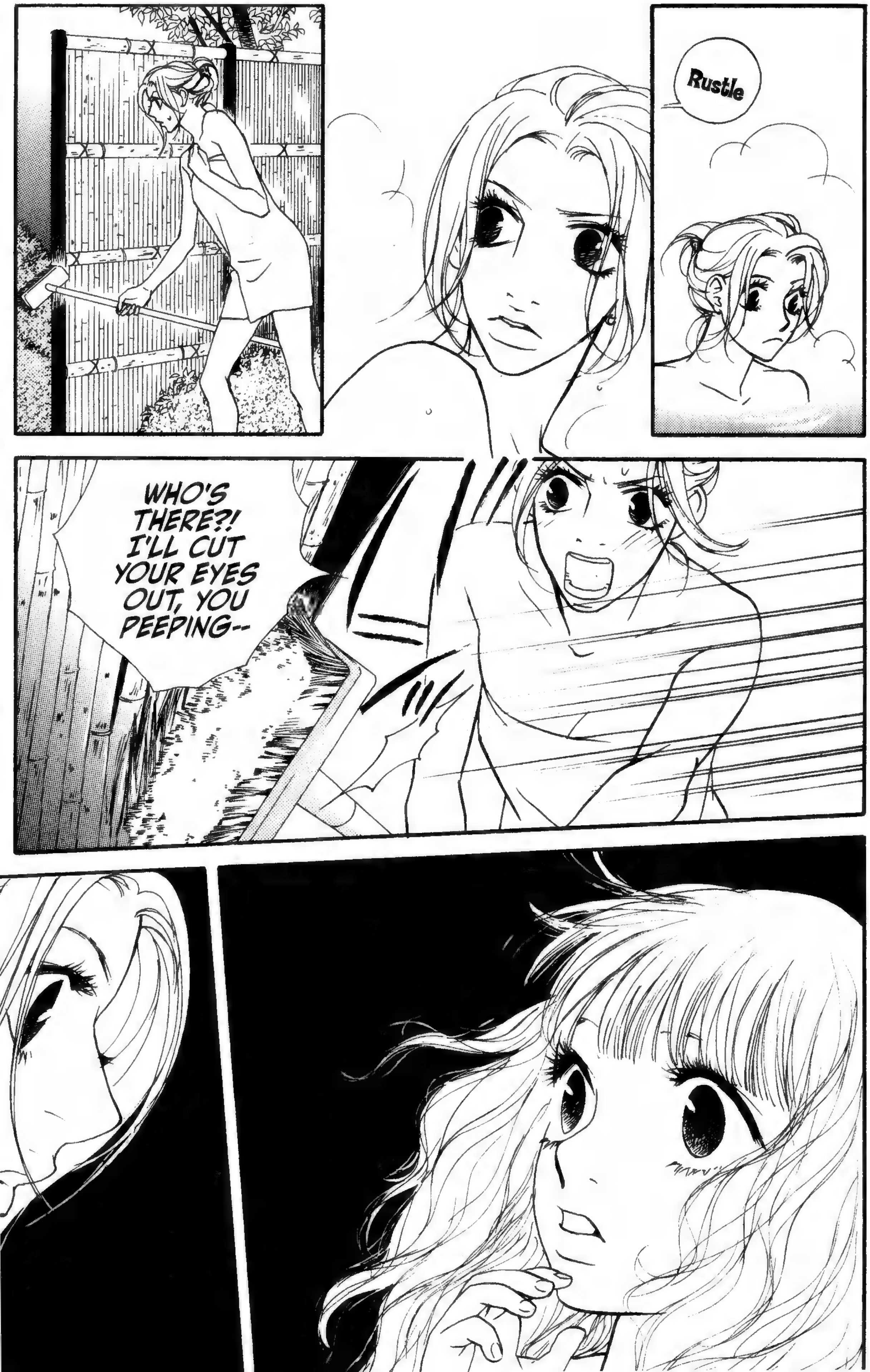

WHOEVER SENT ME THE E-MAIL ABOUT THE FOLK TALE.
DIDN'T YOU ALREADY TRY THAT AND THEY DIDN'T RESPOND?
YES, BUT...
WELL, WE HAVE SOME TIME BEFORE THE BOAT LEAVES.
I'M GONNA SEND AN E-MAIL.
TO WHOM?
...IF I LET THEM KNOW I'M HERE COVERING THE STORY, THEY MIGHT RECONSIDER.
COULDN'T HURT TO TRY.

WOW... THE WATER...
...IT'S JADE GREEN.
YEAH... WHO KNOWS WHAT'S DOWN THERE?
THERE COULD BE REAL MERMAIDS, FOR ALL WE KNOW.
YEAH... SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
SUDDENLY, I'M VERY TIRED.
I'M SURE I'D BE HAVING MORE FUN IF HASUMI-SENPAI WERE HERE...

SUMIRE! SUMIRE!
はっ
LOOK!
THAT'S OUR HOTEL.
IT'S QUIET...
WE'RE HERE DURING THE OFF-SEASON, SO IT'LL FEEL LIKE WE HAVE THE PLACE TO OURSELVES.

...DOES SHE LIVE AT THE INN?
SHE'S CUTE. NO...I'D SAY MORE PRETTY THAN CUTE.
THIS IS YOUR ROOM.
THE LAKE IS RIGHT BENEATH OUR WINDOW.
BUT WE STILL CAN'T SEE WHAT'S DOWN THERE.
IT'S TOO... MURKY...


THE SUNKEN VILLAGE...
......
...WHAT'S WRONG, SUMIRE?
I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE'S EYES!
OH, UH... NOTHING...
BUT IT MUST'VE BEEN MY IMAGINATION.
STILL... THIS PLACE HAS SUCH A MAGICAL FEEL TO IT.
AHHH...!
I'M GLAD I CAME HERE, EVEN IF HASUMI-SENPAI COULDN'T.
THIS FEELS SO GOOD...
...AND MOMO SEEMS TO BE HAPPY.


Rustle
WHO'S THERE?! I'LL CUT YOUR EYES OUT, YOU PEEPING--

OH... IT'S YOU.
TAIL...
...HUH?
FISH...
...TAIL...
MURMUR
ANN! THERE YOU ARE! COME HERE!!

KAIRI!!
KIDS?
NO, ALL OUR OTHER GUESTS ARE OLDER THAN YOU.

THERE ARE NO CHILDREN STAYING HERE...
MAYBE THEY CAME IN FROM TOWN?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU HAVE TO TAKE A BOAT TO GET HERE.
THE ONLY WAY IN BY FOOT IS A GAME TRAIL ON THE MOUNTAIN.
Huff
Huff
THERE.
YOU MUST BE TIRED, ANN.
KAIRI...
...I WONDER... IS SHE A MERMAID?
NO.
SHE WAS WET, BUT SHE DIDN'T HAVE A FISH TAIL.

I KNOW...
BUT...
...MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE IT WASN'T LAKE WATER...
......
......
I DIDN'T PUSH THE BEDS TOGETHER.
WELL, YOU COULD HAVE SEPARATED THEM!
BAD MOOD
C'MON... DON'T BE SO CRANKY.
DRINK UP!
WE'VE GOT CRABS!

DAMN YOU, SENPAI!!
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS, Y'KNOW?
I EVEN STOPPED SMOKING THREE DAYS AGO!
I EVEN STARTED DOING SIT-UPS EVERY NIGHT BEFORE BED!
I KNOW.
WELL, MAYBE THAT WASN'T NECESSARY...
YOU'RE TONED ENOUGH AS IS.
GAZE
コテン
MOMO...
YOU KNOW...
...WHEN I LOOK AT YOU CAREFULLY... YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE.

SHE SMELLS GOOD FROM HER BATH...
ふわん
...AND HER YUKATA IS OPEN.
DOES THAT MEAN ...?
MOMO'S IMAGINATION
Come on
...IT'S OKAY...
...TO TAKE HER?
ガラッ
I HUMBLY ACCEPT...
CLAP
ALLOW ME TO CLEAR YOUR PLATES, PLEASE!
BRISK MANNER
てきぱき
SHE'S GOING TO CATCH A CHILL AFTER HER BATH.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HER TO BED?
YES, MA'AM.
Z

ZZZZ...
チカッ
HEY...
...A LIGHT?

......
むく
DID ANYONE ...
...CALL ME?
MOMO'S GONE.
IS HE AT THE SPRINGS AGAIN?
RRRRRRR
ザワ...

...MOMO?
SUMIRE!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
UMM... TAKING A WALK.
I SAW SOMETHING SHINING ON THE LAKE...
...SO I WENT OUTSIDE TO SEE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, SUMIRE?
I GOT AN E-MAIL FROM "N. MILE."
"N. MILE"?
MY MYSTERY SOURCE.
If you go to the dock of Hekisui-Kan at midnight
"IF YOU GO TO THE DOCK OF HEKISUI-KAN AT MIDNIGHT, YOU'LL HEAR A MERMAID'S SONG."
...THAT'S IT!

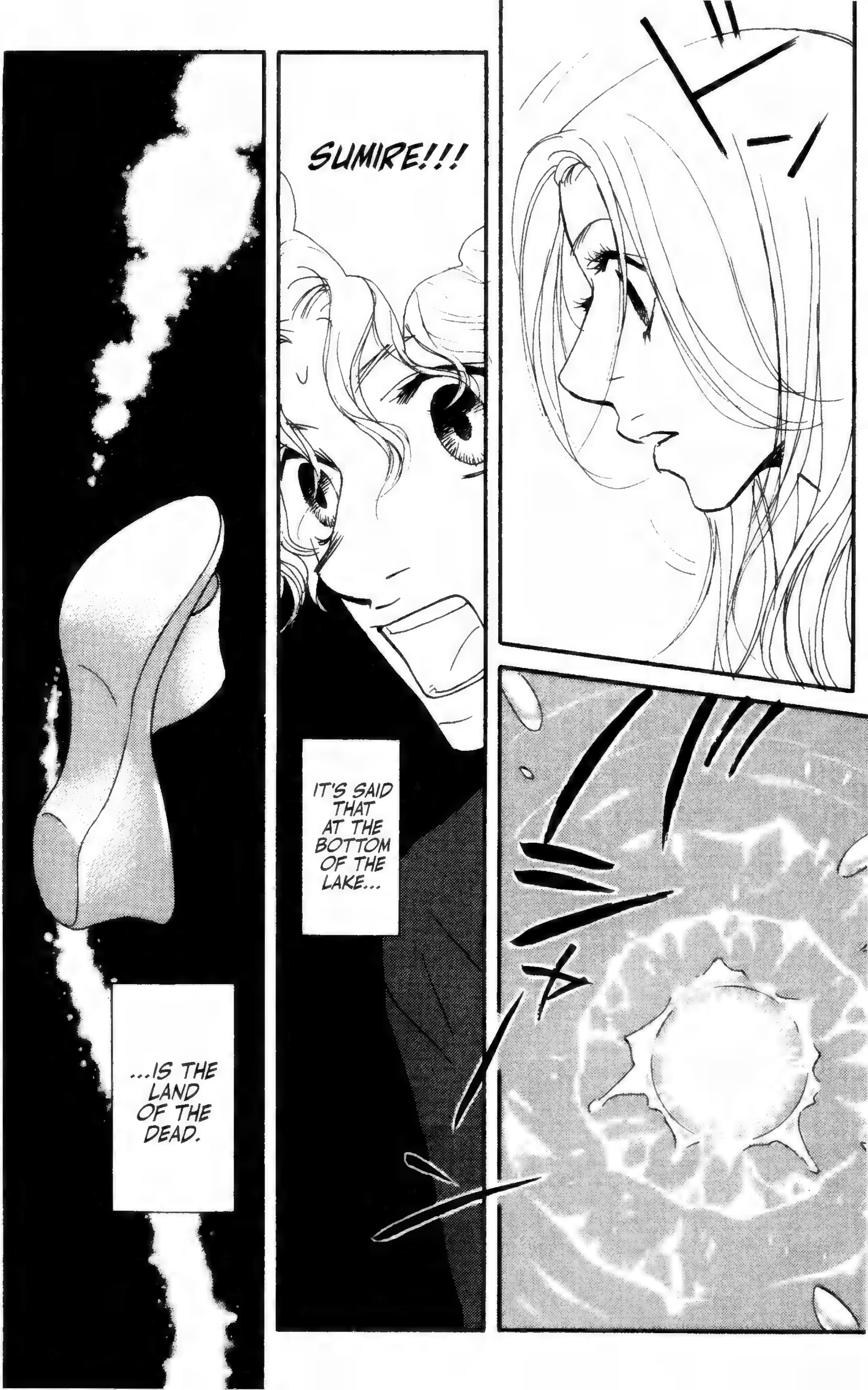
...BUT IF YOU ASK ME, THAT SOUNDS RATHER FISHY.
UH, NO PUN INTENDED...
HEY, A TRUE REPORTER INVESTIGATES EVERY LEAD.
AH...
WHAT?
SHHH!
I HEAR IT!
IT'S THE SONG...
BUT... IT'S...
...AN ARIA FROM AN OPERA.
HOW WOULD A MERMAID KNOW VERDI?

ARE YOU SURE?
KNOWS NO OPERA
BESIDES, IT'S NOT COMING FROM THE LAKE. IT'S MORE LIKE...
IS THAT... A STORAGE SHED?
HUH?
ガラッ
SOME-ONE'S IN HERE!
IT'S OKAY. LOOK CLOSER.

SEE? TAPE RECORDER.
I'LL SHUT IT OFF.
Click
THIS IS ALL A BIG FAKE!
SPLASH
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHAT WAS THAT?
MAYBE A JUMPING CARP?
CARP? THAT WOULD BE ONE HELLUVA BIG--

MERMAID?!
I'M CHECKING THIS OUT!
SUMIRE! WAIT!

IT'S SO DARK. I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING...
IT'S JUST A BLACK VOID.
Snap
SUMIRE! BEHIND YOU!


SUMIRE!!!
IT'S SAID THAT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE...
...IS THE LAND OF THE DEAD.

Rule31
ON MYSTERIOUS TRIPS • PART 2

DEEP WATERS THE COLOR OF JADE.
GASP!
A SUNKEN VILLAGE.
GLUB
AN ANCIENT FOLK TALE.
SUMIRE?!
A MERMAID'S SONG.

I DON'T THINK SHE CAN SWIM.
YEAH, IT'S FUNNY TO SEE HER SPLASHING AROUND.
WAIT-- WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
I THINK SHE'S GONNA DROWN.
SHIT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!!
CAN'T SEE ANYTHING DOWN HERE...

SIGH
GOOD THING SHE PASSED OUT.
IS SHE OKAY?
THERE'S NO WATER IN HER LUNGS?
NO... SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

HE SAID SHE'S OKAY, ANN.
NOW COME OUT.
HEY!
YOU PUSHED HER IN, DIDN'T YOU?!
AFRAID
DON'T YELL AT HER. SHE'S SCARED.
SHE JUST WANTED TO SEE IF A FISH TAIL WOULD COME OUT.
SHE MEANT NO HARM.
FISH TAIL...?
UHHHN ...
SUMIRE-- CAN YOU HEAR ME?
COME ON, SUMIRE.
UHN.
Slap Slap

GRANDMA?
THERE ARE NO MERMAIDS.
I GUESS THAT MEANS...
...MY MOM IS GONE.
KAIRI-SAN...
...YOU WERE OUT LATE AGAIN.

YOU DO WHAT YOU LIKE BECAUSE YOUR FATHER IS AWAY.
YOUR TEACHER TELLS ME YOU SLEEP DURING CLASS, TOO.
AND WHY DO YOU HANG OUT WITH THAT LITTLE GIRL?
HOW OLD IS SHE? EIGHT OR NINE?
IT'S NOT RIGHT.
SHE'S TOO YOUNG FOR YOU TO BE FRIENDS WITH. I DON'T LIKE IT.
IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, PEOPLE WILL TALK.
YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING INDECENT, HAVE YOU?
IN A SMALL VILLAGE LIKE THIS, THERE ARE NO SECRETS.
YOU SHOULDN'T DO ANY-THING TO HURT YOUR FATHER'S REPUTATION.
SHUT UP!
HUH?
YOUR BREATH IS LIKE YOUR SOUL-- *ROTTEN.*

バタン
The Neverending Story
EVENTUALLY, I'LL BECOME ROTTEN, TOO.
I MISS MY REAL MOTHER...
MOM...IS IT OKAY IF I VISIT YOU?

I FINALLY FOUND A HIT.
IT'S ON THE MERMAID MANIA SITE. THERE'S A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE FOLKTALE...
...BUT IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE THAT CAME TO THE LIFESTYLE DEPARTMENT.
THE MESSAGE YOU RECEIVED SAYS THE MERMAIDS ARE LIKE GUARDIAN ANGELS, RIGHT?
GO ON.
IN THE FOLKTALE, IT'S THE OPPOSITE. THE MERMAIDS LURE CHILDREN INTO THE WATER AND EAT THEM.
IT ALSO SAYS THERE'S A SHRINE TO WARD OFF THE MERMAIDS--YOU MIGHT WANT TO LOOK FOR THAT.
THANK YOU.
I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.
I DON'T KNOW WHO ELSE WOULD HAVE HAD SUCH SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE.
YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW. I'M A GEEK.
OH, ONE MORE THING. THE NAME ON THE E-MAIL WAS "N. MILE," RIGHT?
THERE WAS AN ENTRY WITH THE SAME NAME ON THE WEBSITE'S BULLETIN BOARD.
WONDER WHO IT IS.

SUMIRE, SUMIRE!
I FOUND SOMETHING!
GAHHHH!
コロン
HERE'S OUR MERMAID FROM LAST NIGHT.
IT WAS ATTACHED TO A FISHING LINE.
BADUM BADUM
WHAT... WHO... COULD HAVE DONE THIS?
PROBABLY THOSE TWO KIDS WE SAW LAST NIGHT. AFTER ALL, THEY WERE BOTH NEARBY WHEN IT HAPPENED.
YEAH... YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
THE GIRL WAS NAMED ANN.
RIGHT. AND THE BOY WAS...KAIRI, I BELIEVE.
HMM... KAIRI...?

SO N. MILE COULD STAND FOR...
NAUTICAL MILE...?*
COULD THAT BOY...HAVE SENT THE MESSAGE?
*KAIRI CAN BE TRANSLATED AS "NAUTICAL MILE."
DID YOU FIND ANYTHING?
THERE'S NOTHING HERE ABOUT MERMAIDS.
BUT THERE'S A LOT ABOUT THE VILLAGE THAT DISAPPEARED BENEATH THE WATER.
MAYBE IT'D BE QUICKER TO INTERVIEW THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE.
Tap Tap
UH, SUMIRE, THAT'S NOT AN ASHTRAY. IT'S FOR THE DISPLAY.
THERE'S EVEN A "NO SMOKING" SIGN POSTED.
PEOPLE AROUND HERE WOULDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT THE MERMAIDS.

Tea Room POLO POLO
ANN LIVES WITH HER GRANDMA AT THE HARBOR.
HER MOM WAS KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT TWO YEARS AGO.
HER DAD WAS AN AMERICAN ENGINEER WHO STAYED HERE TWO MONTHS FOR TRAINING.
HE PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ANN EXISTS.
HALF-AMERICAN... THAT EXPLAINS THE NAME.
I SEE...
I THOUGHT YOU GUYS MUST BE BROTHER AND SISTER.
SINCE ANN NO LONGER HAS A FAMILY...
......
...IT'S UP TO US TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER,
KAIRI.
MY MOM WANTED TO TAKE HER IN, BUT SIX MONTHS LATER SHE DIED OF CANCER.
MY DAD'S MISTRESS TOOK MY MOM'S PLACE.

HERE YA GO.
ゴトッ
BUT...WE DIDN'T ORDER THIS.
IT'S A SPECIAL TREAT FOR THE YOUNG MAN.
NO THANKS.
BUT THE OWNER...
IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, CAN I HAVE IT?
YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN A BITE!
MOMO!!
HE'S NOT HUNGRY.
MY DAD...
...WORKS FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL.
IS HE THE ONE TRYING TO CONSTRUCT THE BRIDGE AND HIGHWAY...
...SO MORE PEOPLE WILL MOVE INTO THE APARTMENTS AND THE VILLAGE WILL GET MORE TAX MONEY?
WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT?
THE RECEPTIONIST AT THE TOWN HALL.
ONCE I FLIRTED WITH HER, SHE TOLD ME EVERYTHING.
......
LADYKILLER.

THE MERMAID LEGEND TENDED TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY.
NO ONE WOULD WANT TO LIVE HERE IF THERE'S A CREEPY LEGEND, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY NO ONE TALKS ABOUT IT.
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SENT THE MESSAGE.
WHY DID YOU SEND IT TO THE NEWSPAPER?
......
BECAUSE KAIRI'S MOM IS ALSO A MERMAID.
EH...?
MY MOM BECAME A MERMAID, TOO.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE...
...SINCE YOU HAVE LONG HAIR AND YOU'RE SO PRETTY.
SOMETIMES MERMAIDS TURN INTO HUMANS.
I WANTED TO ASK YOU IF WE COULD SEE OUR MOMS.
THE LEGEND SAYS THAT WOMEN WHO DIE AND LEAVE BEHIND CHILDREN...
...BECOME MERMAIDS WHO LIVE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE...
......
RRRRRRR

RRRRRRRR
......
YOU'RE NOT ANSWERING?
RRRRRRR
IT'S MY STEPMOM.
Clack
I DON'T NEED TO TALK TO HER.
HE LOST HIS MOM, TOO...
WE'LL TAKE YOU TO THE MERMAID SHRINE TO MAKE UP FOR YESTERDAY.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR STEP-MOM?
I'LL PRETEND I NEVER HEARD IT.
ALL WE DO IS ARGUE ANYWAY.
WATCH YOUR STEP.
IF YOU FALL FROM HERE, YOU'LL DIE.
HOW DID I GET INTO THIS?!

THAT'S IT!
LOOKS OLD...
YEP. IT'S PROBABLY OLDER THAN THE DAM.
KAIRI... CAN I LEAVE SOME FLOWERS?
WHAT'S THAT...?
THE OLD SUSPENSION BRIDGE...FROM WHEN THIS WAS JUST A REGULAR VALLEY.
ANN'S MOM FELL TO HER DEATH FROM THERE.
OH...
PEOPLE SAY IT WAS AN ACCIDENT... BUT I THINK IT WAS SUICIDE.

THE FOUR OF US... USED TO COME HERE A LOT.
MY MOM AND ANN'S MOM WERE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.
ONE DAY...
...ANN SAID SHE COULD SEE HOUSES IN THE WATER.
I COULD SEE THEM, TOO. IT WAS THE OLD VILLAGE.
AND BOTH OUR MOMS SAID THEY COULD SEE THEM.
...IS IT TRUE?
I DON'T KNOW. I WAS YOUNG... NEITHER OF US REMEMBERS NOW.
IF WE GO STRAIGHT, WE CAN GET TO HEKISUI-KAN. BUT YOU'D BETTER GO BACK TO THE HARBOR.
THEY'D WORRY IF THEIR PASSENGERS DISAPPEARED.

*A JAPANESE CAKE USUALLY MADE WITH FLOUR OR BUCKWHEAT.

ガチャ
OH... KAIRI-SAN!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
YOUR TUTOR'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
ROTTEN.
THINK YOU'LL GET INTO THE SAME SCHOOL AS YOUR FATHER WITH THAT ATTITUDE?
IF YOU DON'T WORK HARDER, YOUR FATHER WILL BLAME ME.
I WANT TO THROW UP.
THAT EVIL, ROTTEN SMELL.
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!

I'M BEING INVADED.
I'LL ROT, TOO.
HELP!
ANN!
ANN...?

LET'S GO... VISIT OUR MOMS...
RRR...
HELLO?
YOU'RE AT THE HARBOR... YES?
WHAT?! THE KIDS?!

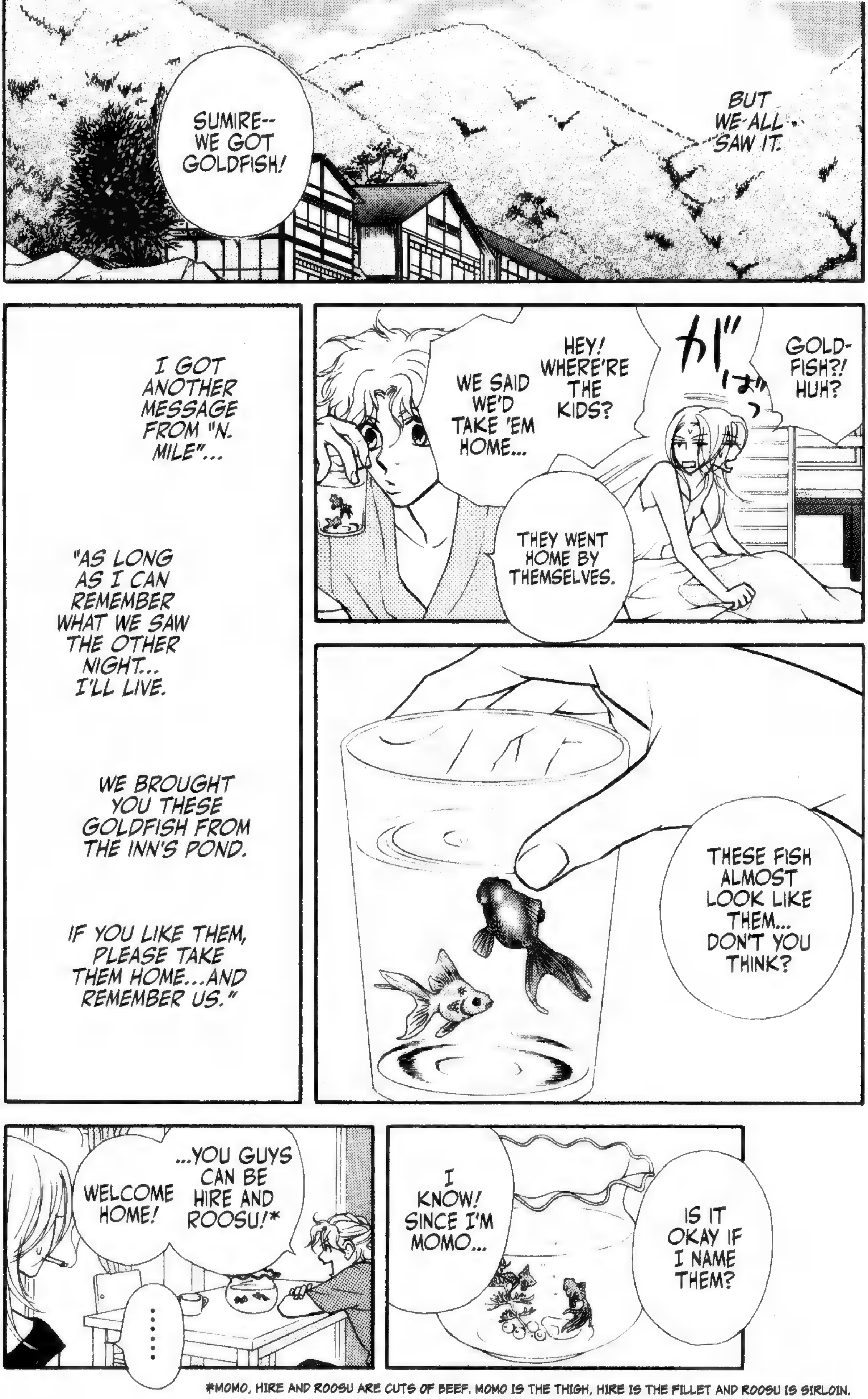
THERE'S A NOTE SAYING SHE'S GONE TO HER "MOM'S PLACE."
WHEN I CALLED THE MANSION, NEITHER SHE NOR THE YOUNG MAN WAS THERE.
I THINK YOU'RE THE LAST ONES WHO SAW THEM...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY WENT?
IT WON'T COME UNDONE?
NO, IT'S TIGHT.
I'M SCARED...
I KNOW.
CLOSE YOUR EYES.

WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER NOW.
STOP IT!!

HUFF
HUFF
EVEN IF WE DO GROW UP...
...NOTHING GOOD WILL HAPPEN TO US.
I'LL JUST GET DIRTY AND ROTTEN...
...AND SO WILL ANN.
I ONCE SAW THE UNDERWATER VILLAGE...
...BUT NOW I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER IT.
SOON WE'LL FORGET ABOUT THE MERMAIDS, TOO...

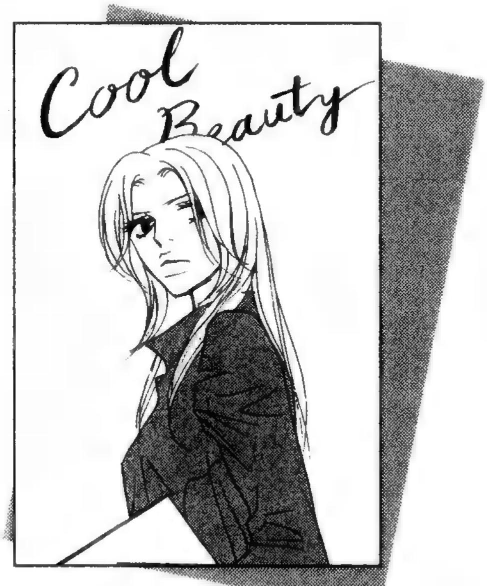
I DON'T WANNA BE LIKE THAT WOMAN OR MY DAD.
SUMIRE!
LOOK!
THE LAKE...

SEE...?
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE ADULTS... WE CAN SEE IT, TOO.
I NEVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT THAT NIGHT...
I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WOULD BELIEVE ME.



*MOMO, HIRE AND ROOSU ARE CUTS OF BEEF. MOMO IS THE THIGH, HIRE IS THE FILLET AND ROOSU IS SIRLOIN.

Rule 32
SOMETHING ABOUT HER


Cool Beauty

SOMETIMES WHEN I LOOK AT SUMIRE... THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER I JUST DON'T GET.
I THINK THAT LAST PIECE OF BEEF IS COOKED.
BUT THANKS FOR--
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH YOU EAT.
YET YOU NEVER GAIN AN OUNCE!
AFFECTIONATE SMILE
EH. I HAVE A HIGH METABO-LISM.

IT'S MINE.
MMM...YOU DELIGHT IN TORTURING ME...
DELICIOUS ...!
MUNCH MUNCH
WHAT? SOMEONE'S TALKING WITH HIS MOUTH FULL!
JUST KIDDING. ♡
HERE.
BUT I LOVE HER CHEERFUL SMILE.
Oh, what fun to tease a pet!

Cool Beauty
TONIGHT'S STORY IS HOW POOR CHAPPY WAS TAKEN TO HEAVEN.
IT'S CHAPPY, THE MIRACULOUS SEEING-EYE DOG!
SOB...
SOB
SOB
CHAPPY!
THEN THERE'S THE WAY SHE CRIES DURING SAPPY TV SHOWS.
SNIFFLE
SNIFF
POOR CHAPPY...
THAT'S A SIDE OF HER NO ONE SEES OUTSIDE OF THIS APARTMENT.
RRR
I DON'T EVEN THINK HASUMI-KUN SEES THAT SIDE OF HER.
NOW? YEAH, I'M FREE.
I WAS JUST... READING A BOOK...
BUT I GET TO SEE ALL HER GUILTY PLEASURES.
LIKE WHEN SHE WEEPS DURING "AMAZING ANIMALS."

I UNDER-STAND WHY SHE WOULDN'T WANT TO SHOW HER SOFT SIDE.
IT MUST BE HARD FOR HER.
SURE, THAT SOUNDS GREAT.
I'D LOVE TO.
BUT I FEEL SORRY FOR POOR HASUMI-KUN, WHO DOESN'T GET TO SEE THE REAL SUMIRE.
THEN AGAIN, HE KNOWS MANY THINGS THAT I DON'T...
...I TAKE IT BACK. I DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR HIM AT ALL.
HEY!
WHAT'S WITH THE LOOK? ARE YOU BUSY?
NO... IT'S OKAY.
I WAS JUST WASHING MOMO'S HAIR.
HEY, MOMO. DRY YOUR OWN HAIR, WILL YOU?
OKAY.
......

*IN JAPAN, THERE WAS A COCONUT JELLY CRAZE A FEW YEARS AGO, BUT HARDLY ANYONE EATS IT NOW.

YOU KNOW THAT GIRL I WORK WITH-- EMMA?
SAY "BIG BROTHER MOMO."
MO-NO.
SHE IGNORES ME, MAKES MISTAKES, AND THEN BLAMES ME FOR THEM.
WHY DOESN'T SHE TAKE CHARGE?
SHE SAYS IT'S BECAUSE SHE CAN'T UNDERSTAND MY ENGLISH.
BUT I KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.
EH?
LOOK, SUMIRE-- YOU'RE HER BOSS.
YOU SHOULD TELL HER WHAT TO DO.
SHE MESSES WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU DON'T MAKE YOUR POSITION CLEAR.
IT'S CLEAR IN MY MIND.
YES, BUT YOU DON'T EXPRESS IT.
EVER SINCE COLLEGE, I'VE WONDERED WHY SHE CAN'T JUST SAY WHAT SHE FEELS.
HEY, WHY DON'T YOU ASK HASUMI-SAN?
HE COULD PROBABLY GIVE YOU BETTER ADVICE, SINCE HE WORKS THERE.

YOU MAY BE SMART AND HAVE A GREAT FIGURE...
...BUT YOU JUST DON'T HAVE THE PERSONALITY TO TAKE CHARGE.
EH, HE'S BUSY GETTING READY FOR THE MOVE.
I CAN'T BOTHER HIM WITH STUFF LIKE THIS.
THANKS FOR SHOOTING DOWN MY SUGGESTION.
AM I MEAN FOR THINKING LIKE THIS?
I KNOW! NEXT TIME, JUST SMILE SWEETLY AT EMMA AND TELL HER...
...SHE'S A STUPID BITCH.
SORRY! WERE YOU WAITING LONG?
NO.
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
I KNOW A NEW FRIED FOOD RESTAURANT WE COULD TRY. YOU UP FOR IT?

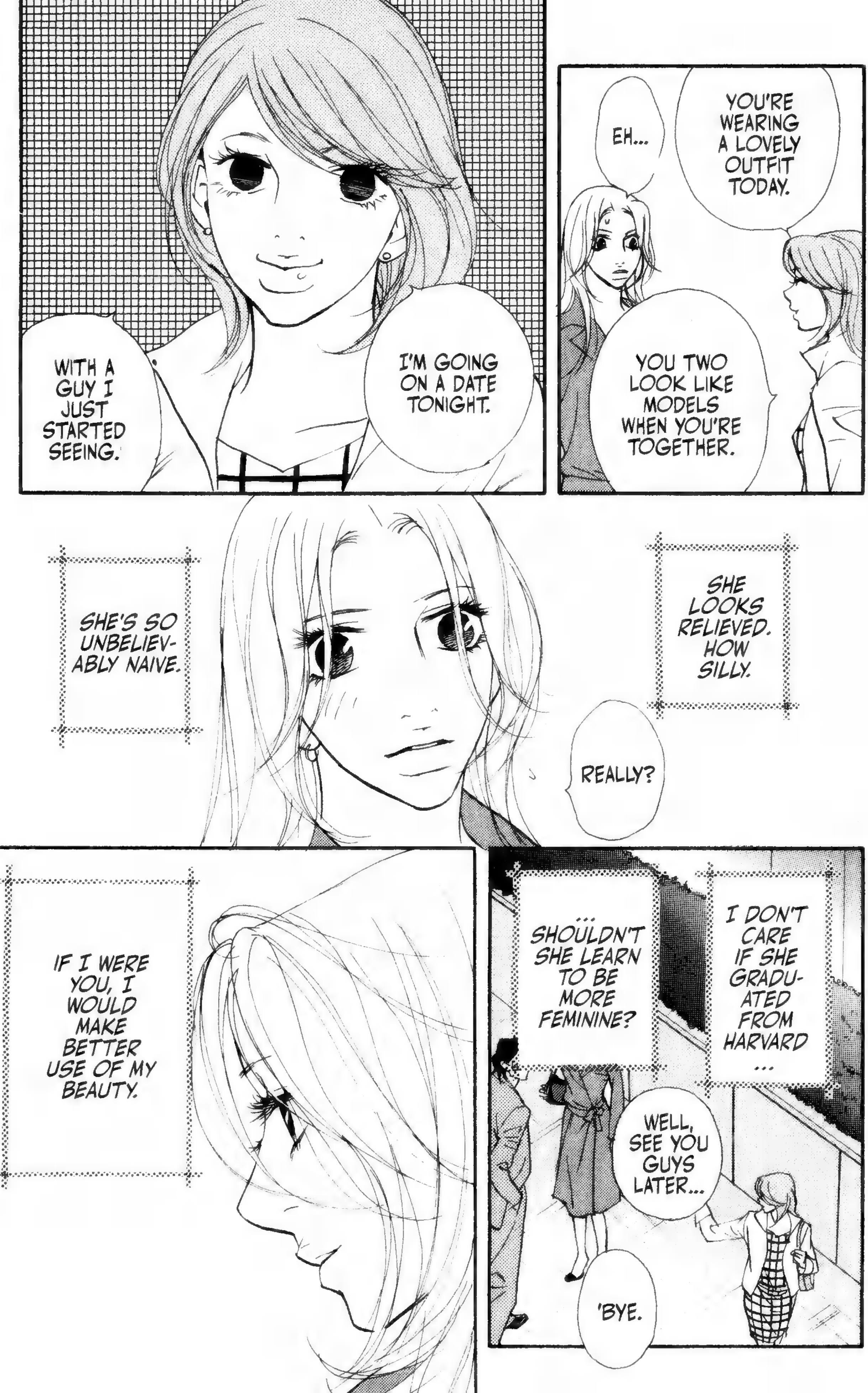
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER I JUST DON'T GET...
SURE.
HER LOOKS HAVE CHANGED DRAMATICALLY SINCE I FIRST MET HER.
BUT SHE'S STILL THE SAME WOMAN INSIDE.
SHE MAY BE SMART, BUT SHE'S ALSO MODEST AND SHY...
...SO SHE ALWAYS SEEMS ALOOF FROM EVERYONE ELSE.
CAUTION: THIS IS HASUMI'S PERSISTENT IMAGE OF HER!
YOU KNOW WHAT? I ALWAYS DECIDE EVERYTHING.
WHY DON'T YOU CHOOSE THE RESTAURANT TONIGHT?
UM...
WELL... IF YOU SAY SO...
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE WE GO!
BUT I'M REALLY NOT PICKY ABOUT WHAT I EAT!
NOT GOOD AT MAKING DECISIONS

WELL, MAYBE SHE JUST SEEMS THE SAME.
SUSHI!
SHE COULD BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT NOW FOR ALL I KNOW.
That's it! I want to eat sushi!
NAH, SHE'S THE SAME.
HEH HEH
I SHOULD TELL HIM THAT FRIED FOOD ISN'T MY FAVORITE...
URGH...
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
...SHE RARELY TALKS DURING SEX.
I WISH SHE'D JUST TELL ME WHAT SHE WANTS ME TO DO.
SENPAI?
SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?
PROBABLY WORK.
AH... NO...
BUT ONE THING THAT DEFINITELY HASN'T CHANGED ...

EVEN IF HER EXPRESSION DOESN'T CHANGE.
THEIR EYES MEET.
ボッ
...SHE GOES RED REALLY EASILY.
WHEN YOU BLINK, YOUR EYES MAKE A SOUND.
HUH?!
THEY DON'T MAKE ANY SOUND.
YOU'RE BEING SILLY.
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE YOUR LASHES ARE SO LONG.
NO, IT'S TRUE. YOU CAN'T USUALLY HEAR IT...
...BUT IF I COME REAL CLOSE LIKE THIS...
SHE'S ALREADY TURNING RED.
NO WAY.
I CAN REALLY HEAR IT.
NOT... TRUE...
BUT IT'S ONLY BECAUSE WE'RE KISSING IN PUBLIC.

YOU WANNA GO TO A CLUB TONIGHT?
UMM... DON'T KNOW.
I'M GOING TO A SINGLES PARTY AT EIGHT.
AGAIN?!
YOU'RE ALWAYS GOING TO SINGLES PARTIES.
clack
clack
clack
SHIORI?
SORRY... I'LL PASS.
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER I JUST DON'T GET.

SHE LOOKS AS IF SHE DESERVES TO BE WITH HASUMI-SAN...
...EVEN THOUGH SOME GIRLS WOULD MAKE A GREATER EFFORT TO GET SOMEONE LIKE HIM.
YOU KNOW... LIKE ME.
HEY, MS. IWAYA.
HUH...?
OH... HEY.
HASUMI-SAN. LONG TIME NO SEE!
YOU SHOULD STOP BY SOME TIME. I'LL GIVE YOU A FREE PLAQUE CHECK. ♡
I KNOW WHAT SHE WANTS TO GIVE HIM.


YOU'RE WEARING A LOVELY OUTFIT TODAY.
EH...
YOU TWO LOOK LIKE MODELS WHEN YOU'RE TOGETHER.
I'M GOING ON A DATE TONIGHT.
WITH A GUY I JUST STARTED SEEING.
SHE LOOKS RELIEVED. HOW SILLY.
REALLY?
SHE'S SO UNBELIEVABLY NAIVE.
I DON'T CARE IF SHE GRADUATED FROM HARVARD...
...SHOULDN'T SHE LEARN TO BE MORE FEMININE?
WELL, SEE YOU GUYS LATER...
'BYE.
IF I WERE YOU, I WOULD MAKE BETTER USE OF MY BEAUTY.

IF I WERE YOU...
...I WOULD MAKE HIM MUCH HAPPIER.
"IF I WERE YOU"...?
UGH...
...DO I REALLY...
...THINK THAT WAY?
Ding
Ding
Ding
I NEED TO GET THESE THOUGHTS OUT OF MY HEAD...
THEY'RE CRAMPING MY STYLE.
HEY...
...SHIORI-CHAN!
UH...HI...

HOW ARE YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M AT THE PARTY...
YOU LOOK PRETTY TIRED.
WELL, I HAVE AN EARLY MORNING TOMORROW, SO I'M TAKING OFF.
SAY HI TO EMI-CHAN FOR ME.
......
IT'S *YOU* WHO LOOKS TIRED...
SORRY TO HEAR YOU'RE GOING.
HAVE A GREAT NIGHT! TAKE CARE! ♡ (GET OUT OF MY SIGHT, PLEASE!)
BAD SCORE, HUH?
NO ONE TO BRING HOME TONIGHT, EH?

I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN A ONE-NIGHT STAND.
...THAT'S HOW I PLANNED IT.
THAT'S ALL THESE GUYS WANNA DO.
HM... YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THAT A LOT LATELY.
ARE YOU IN *LOVE* WITH SOMEONE?
NOT A CHANCE.
COME ON. WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO BRING SOME HOT GUY HOME WITH THEM... UNLESS THEY WERE IN LOVE?
I'M NOT IN LOVE.
Creak
HEY...ANYONE HOOK UP WITH THE HOT SALESMAN IN COMPANY D?
'CAUSE IF NOT... HE'S MINE.
SCARY...

BEING IN LOVE...
...WHAT A WASTE OF TIME! ESPECIALLY IF YOU CAN'T BE WITH HIM...
HEY, HASUMI-KUN.
IT'S OFFICIAL. WE'RE TRANSFERRING YOU TO HONG KONG NEXT WEEK.
YOU'RE READY, AREN'T YOU?
UH...
NEXT WEEK...?!
SURE. I'M READY.

...YES. IT'S OKAY.
HELLO ...
Bump
Cha ra ra ra!
SHE'S GONE OUT WITH HER CELL PHONE.
IT'S HER BOY, ISN'T IT?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU. WHAT TIME ARE YOU DONE WITH WORK?
NOT 'TIL LATE. MAYBE TEN O'CLOCK. SORRY.
IT'S OKAY. I CAN KEEP BUSY 'TIL THEN.
I'LL MEET YOU AT TOTOHRU IN YUHRA-KUCHOH.
SOMETHING TO TELL ME...
IS IT THE MOVE TO HONG KONG?

I'M RUNNING LATE.
IS SHE THERE ALREADY?
LET GO OF ME!
I'LL CALL THE POLICE!
WHAT?!
DON'T MESS WITH ME.

YOU WANT SOME OF THIS?
I KNOW HER.
SHE'S MY FRIEND...
HEY-- STOP!
WHAT?!
YOU KNOW HER? OH...
HEH HEH
...THEN SHE FOOLED YOU, TOO?
LEMME GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT, SINCE YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVEN'T LEARNED YOUR LESSON...
...THIS BITCH IS NOTHING BUT A COCK TEASE.
IF YOU REALLY THINK SHE LIKES YOU, KEEP YOUR WALLET IN YOUR PANTS AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
SHE'S ONLY INTERESTED IN THE SIZE OF YOUR BANKROLL.

IT'S TRUE--HE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.

WHY IS THERE A CROWD?
COOL! HE MANAGED TO DODGE AGAIN...!
HIT LOW! LOW!
!
UH...

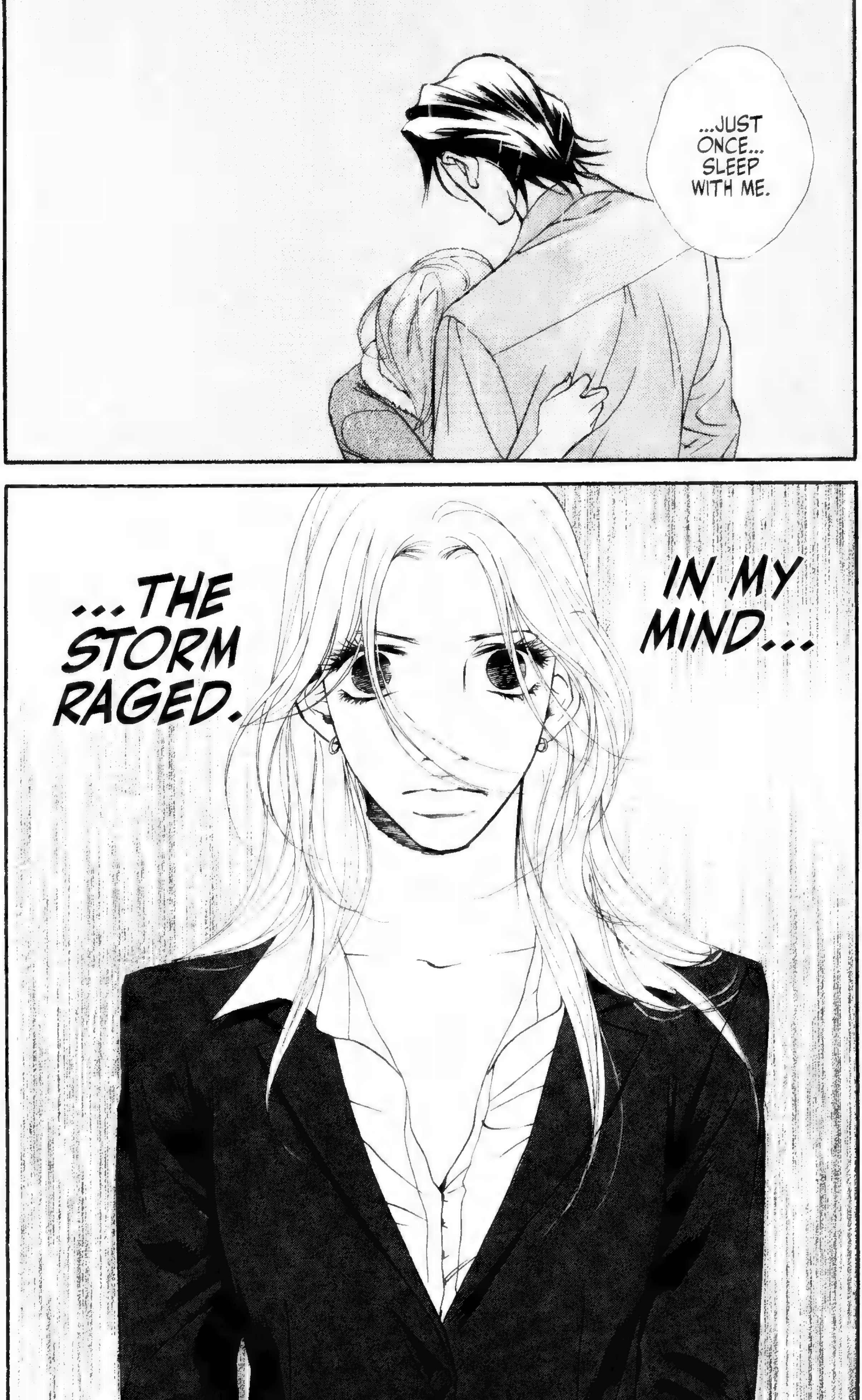
HEY, MISTER.
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? LET'S GO!!
BUT...
HE'S FINE!!
AW, COME ON! IT'S OVER ALREADY?
WHAT HAPPENED?
I HOPE I DIDN'T HURT HIM TOO BADLY...
THE PUNCH WENT RIGHT TO HIS JAW.
FUKUSHIMA-SAN...DID HE HURT YOU?
......

WHY DID YOU HELP ME?
NOW YOU KNOW THE TRUTH.
I'M A BITCH.
I DON'T DESERVE YOUR HELP...
UH...
......?
Plik
IT'S RAINING.
Plik
Plik

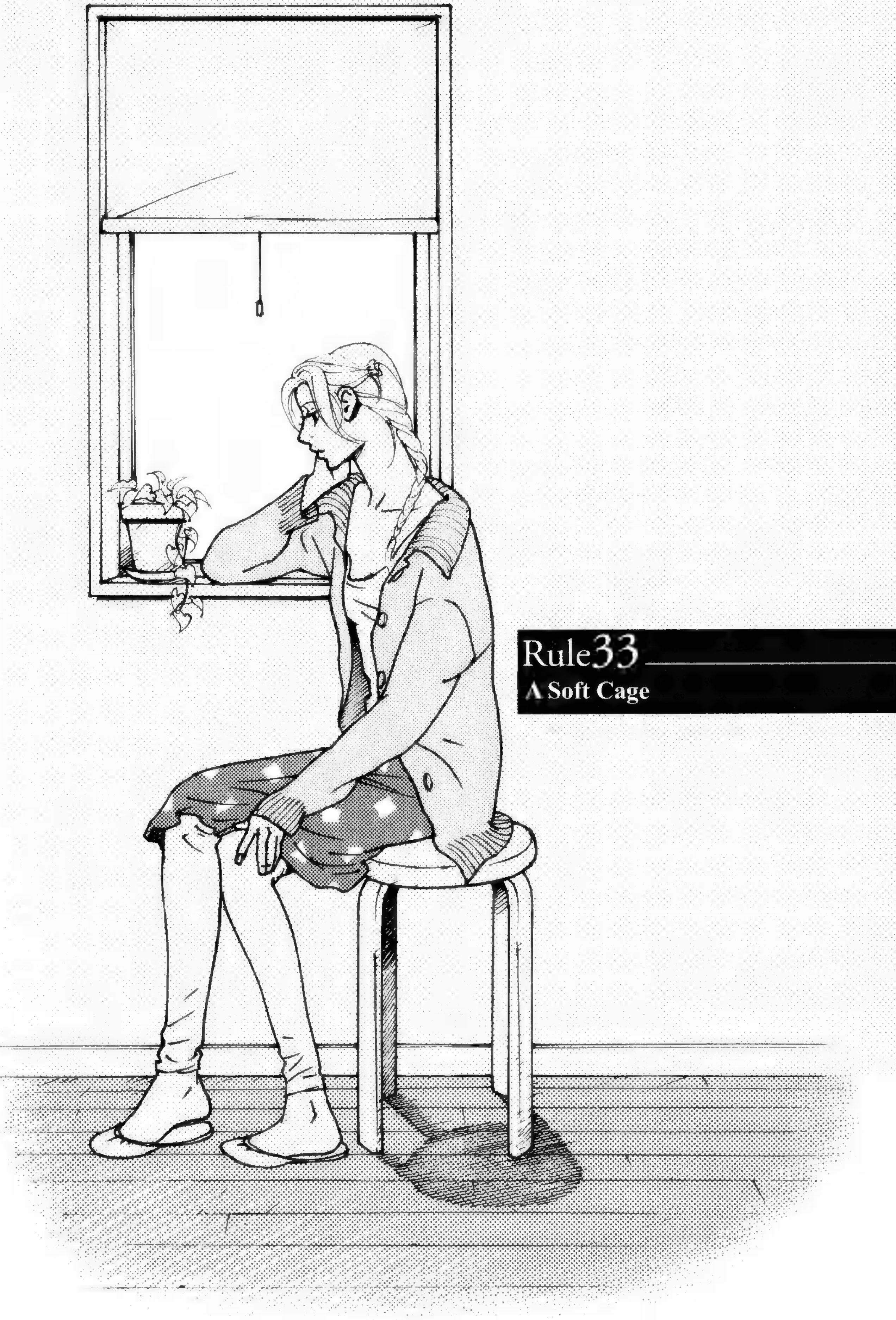
LET'S GET INSIDE...
LEAVE ME ALONE!
GET...
...GET OUTTA HERE!
I WANNA BE ALONE.
OKAY...
HERE.

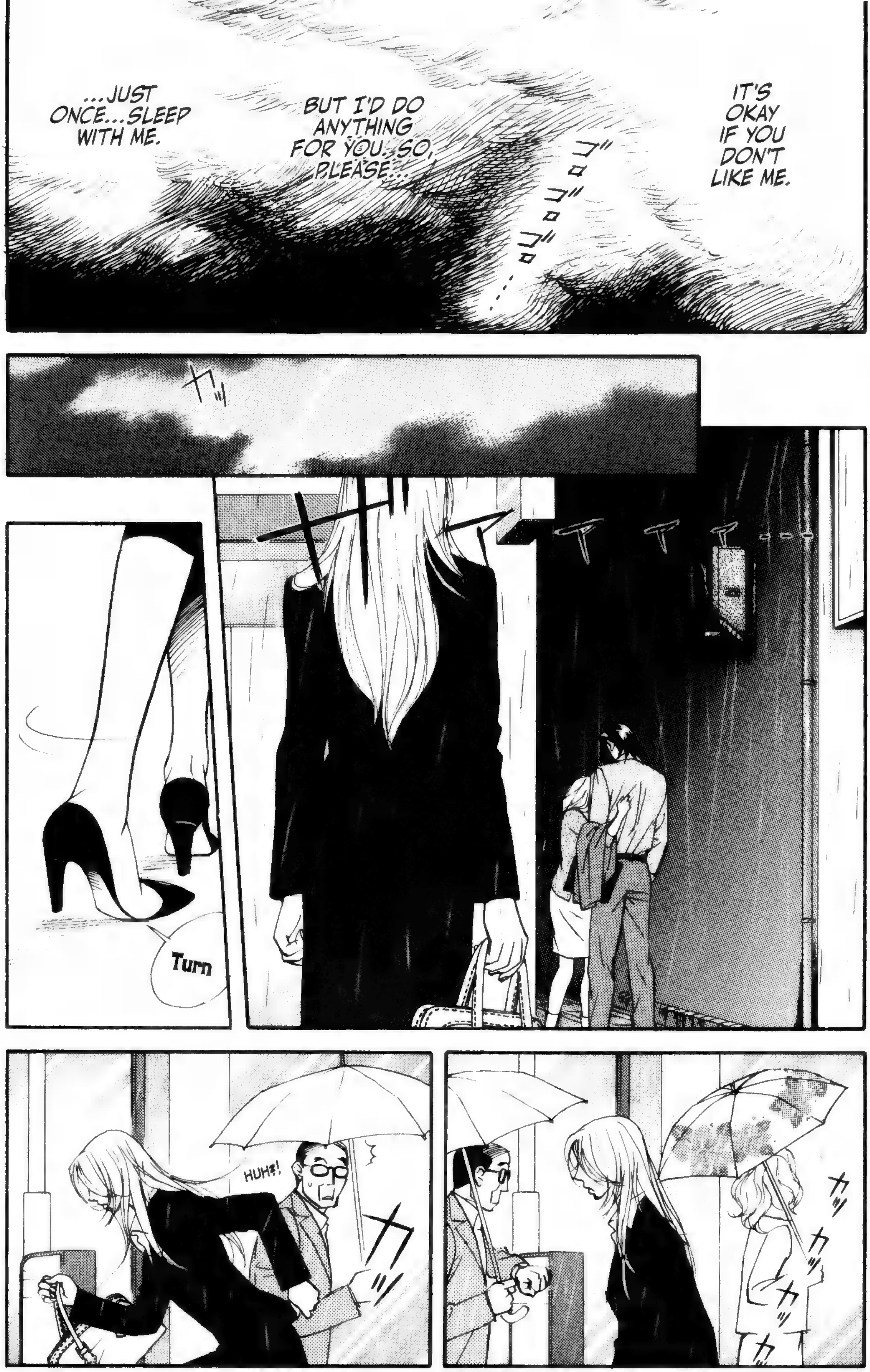
WAIT!
Hah
I WAS KIDDING ...
Hah
DON'T GO...

I HAVE TO TELL YOU...
I LOVE YOU, HASUMI-SAN.
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY.
IT'S OKAY IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME.
BUT I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU. SO, PLEASE...


...JUST ONCE... SLEEP WITH ME.
IN MY MIND...
...THE STORM RAGED.

Rule 33
A Soft Cage




IT'S OKAY IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME.
BUT I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU. SO, PLEASE...
...JUST ONCE...SLEEP WITH ME.
Turn
HUH?!

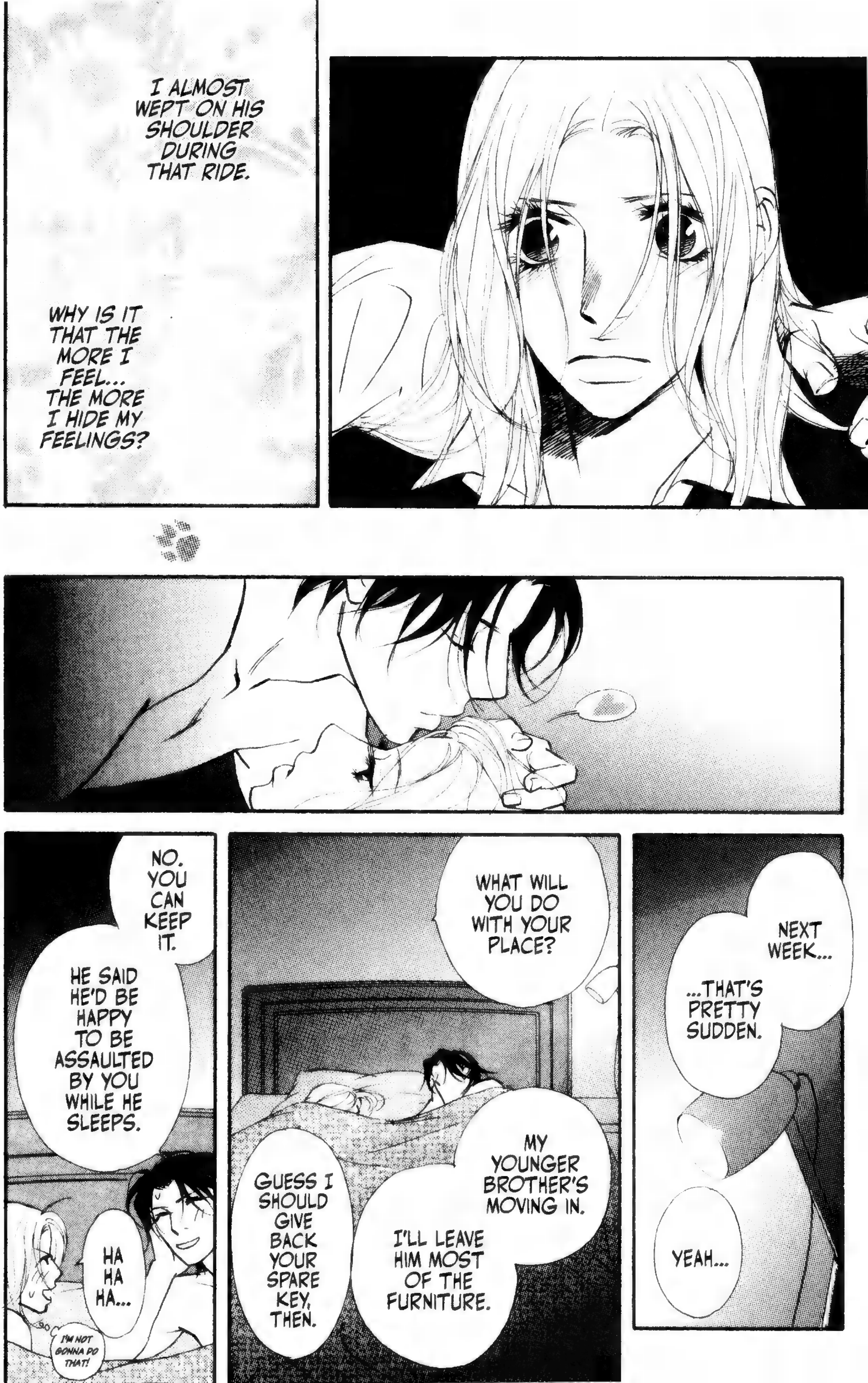
WOW...
HUH?
GET AWAY.
GET AWAY.
BEFORE I FALL APART...
......
COME HERE.
WAIT HERE, ALL RIGHT?
I'LL GET YOU AN UMBRELLA FROM THE STATION.

ONE MORE THING...
I APPRECIATE YOUR FEELINGS...
...BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BLURT THEM OUT LIKE THAT.
IT'S NOT JUST AWKWARD, IT'S INAPPROPRIATE.
YOU REALLY SHOULD VALUE YOURSELF MORE.
......
WHO CARES?!
I'M GLAD I TOLD YOU!
YOU COULD HAVE HAD ME ANYWAY, YOU KNOW...
FUKUSHIMA-SAN...
IF YOU'RE TOO NICE...

...YOU'LL BE FOOLED.
THAT GIRL YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH...
...MS. IWAYA...IS ACTUALLY...
......
SHE'S WHAT?
......
NOTHING.
'BYE.
I HAVE AN UMBRELLA.
......?

I LOVE YOU, HASUMI-SAN.
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY.
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SAY...
... SOMETHING LIKE THAT MYSELF.
I'M GLAD I GOT AWAY FROM THERE.
ALL I CAN DO IS PRETEND I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING AND WAIT HERE.
BUT...
...WHAT IF HE DOESN'T SHOW?
I'M TOO SCARED TO CALL HIS CELL PHONE.
HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT I HEARD?
WOMEN CAN'T LOSE AT RUSSIAN ROULETTE!
HUH? WHY?
WHY ...?
...'CAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE THE BALLS FOR IT!
HAR HAR HAR
THAT'S SO STUPID.

I'M TOO SCARED TO WAIT.
I'M GOING HOME.
WELCOME!
AH...
HE CAME FOR ME.
SORRY! I'M SO LATE...
HE CAME TO ME.
I SEE YOU DIDN'T HAVE AN UMBRELLA, EITHER.
YOU'RE SOAKED!
YOU'LL GET SICK IF YOU STAY IN THOSE CLOTHES. WHY DON'T YOU COME TO MY PLACE?
IT'S KINDA MESSY, BUT...
YOU LOOK COLD.
WE'LL BE THERE SOON.



I ALMOST WEPT ON HIS SHOULDER DURING THAT RIDE.
WHY IS IT THAT THE MORE I FEEL... THE MORE I HIDE MY FEELINGS?
NEXT WEEK...
...THAT'S PRETTY SUDDEN.
YEAH...
WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR PLACE?
MY YOUNGER BROTHER'S MOVING IN.
I'LL LEAVE HIM MOST OF THE FURNITURE.
GUESS I SHOULD GIVE BACK YOUR SPARE KEY, THEN.
NO. YOU CAN KEEP IT.
HE SAID HE'D BE HAPPY TO BE ASSAULTED BY YOU WHILE HE SLEEPS.
HA HA HA...
I'M NOT GONNA DO THAT!

BUT I'LL COME BACK AND VISIT.
AND YOU'LL HAVE TO VISIT ME, TOO.
EHS
CHEER UP, SUMIRE.
HAVING SMALL BOOBS MIGHT BE A PROBLEM, BUT IT'S NOTHING TO CRY--
WHO HAS SMALL BOOBS?

HASUMI-KUN'S LEAVING ON FRIDAY?
......
COME ON, LET'S GO SHOPPING.
I FOUND WHITE BEAR AT THE 7-ELEVEN BY THE RIDGE. I KNOW THAT'S YOUR FAVORITE!
ELEVEN
ANY WHITE BEARS LEFT?
Search
UMM ...
AHA! THE LAST ONE!
HEY...
LET GO!
OH... SORRY...

WHY'D YOU GIVE IT TO HER? YOU FOUND IT FIRST...
I'LL BUY IT NEXT TIME.
EHS
スタスタスタ
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THAT.
EH. WHATEVER ...
TOO DEPRESSED TO CARE
EHS
NEXT IN LINE, PLEASE.
タタッ
NEXT IN LINE
EH?
IT'S OKAY TO WAIT HERE. I'M NOT IN A HURRY.
......
YOU'RE FUNNY, SUMIRE.

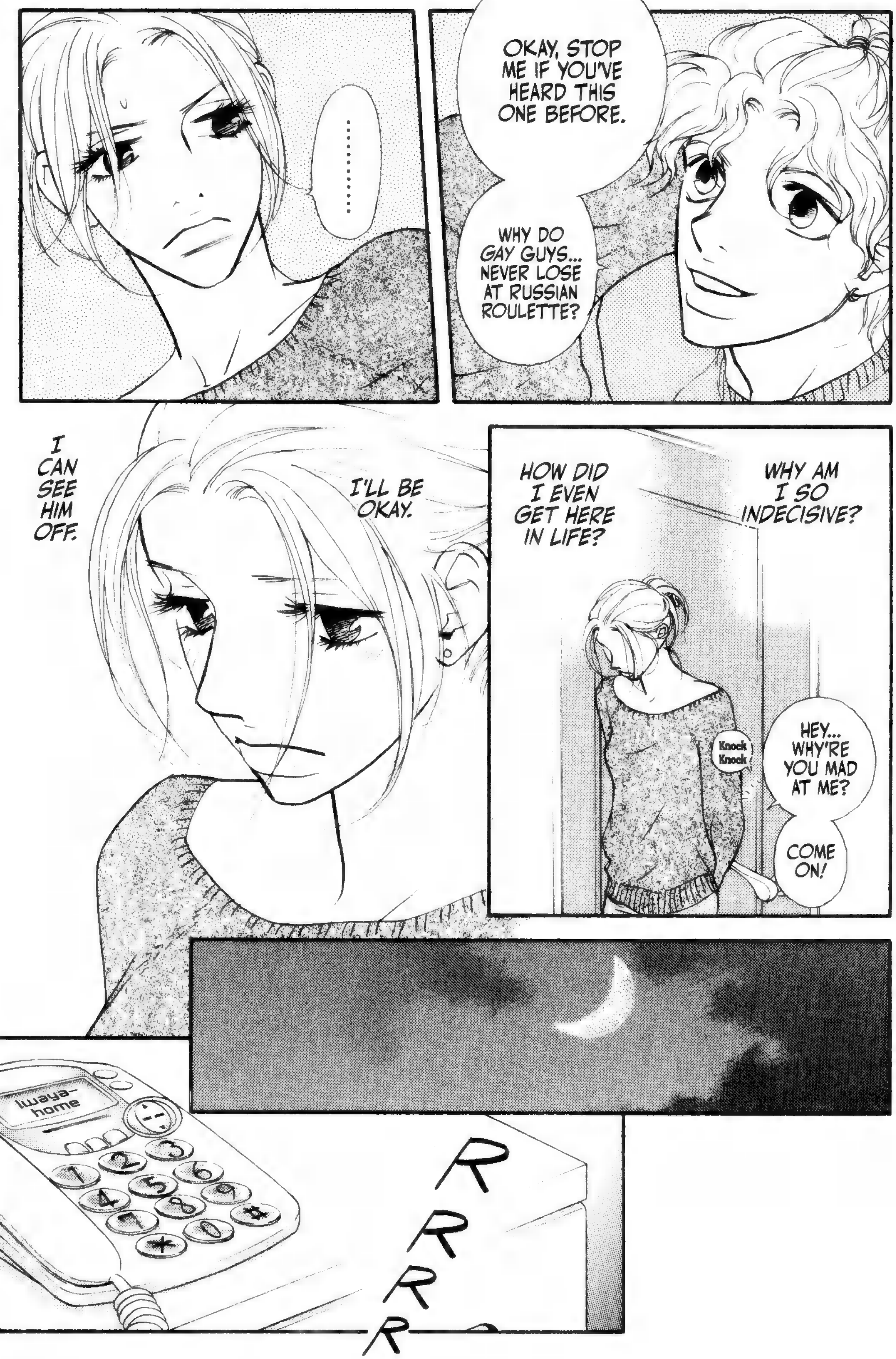
SOME-TIMES...
...YOU HAVE TO STAND UP FOR YOURSELF.
OR YOU MIGHT LOSE SOMETHING YOU REALLY WANT.
HEY, HOW COME YOU'RE MOVING SO SLOW?!
YURI-CHAN
IF YOU WANNA GET A SEAT, YOU GOTTA RUN, OKAY?
SAVING THE SEAT
IT'S OKAY... I DON'T MIND STANDING ...
IT'S SHAMEFUL TO PUSH OTHERS JUST TO GET A SEAT.
I'VE ALWAYS DISLIKED CONFLICT.
YET I PUSH OTHERS ALL THE TIME WHEN THEY DON'T SEE ME.

I'M JUST ASKING WHY IT'S PINK.
BECAUSE IT MATCHES THE CURTAINS.
STILL... PINK? I HAVE TO LIVE THERE TOO, YOU KNOW.
OH!
AH...MS. IWAYA!
YOU'VE CAUGHT US AT AN AWKWARD MOMENT.
RIGHT?
I GUESS SO.
?
HO HO! IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRAS-SING...
ACTUALLY... WE'RE GETTING MARRIED.
WHAT?!
SURPRISE!

YUP! I'LL BE LEAVING THE COMPANY AT THE END OF NEXT MONTH. ♡
PLEASE COME TO THE CEREMONY!
OH... SHE'S GLOWING.
(AND SO IS HER DIAMOND.)
OH, OF COURSE.
CON-GRATULA-TIONS!
AND YOU'LL SOON BE GOING TO HONG KONG WITH HASUMI-SAN, RIGHT?
HUH?
WELL... NOT EXACTLY... UH...
AREN'T YOU GOING?!
HOW COME? WHY?!
......
YOU SHOULDN'T ASK THAT. IT'S PERSONAL.
NUDGE
EEP!
WHY AREN'T I GOING...?
EVEN I'M NOT SURE OF THE ANSWER TO THAT.
WE'RE LEAVING WITHOUT YOU.

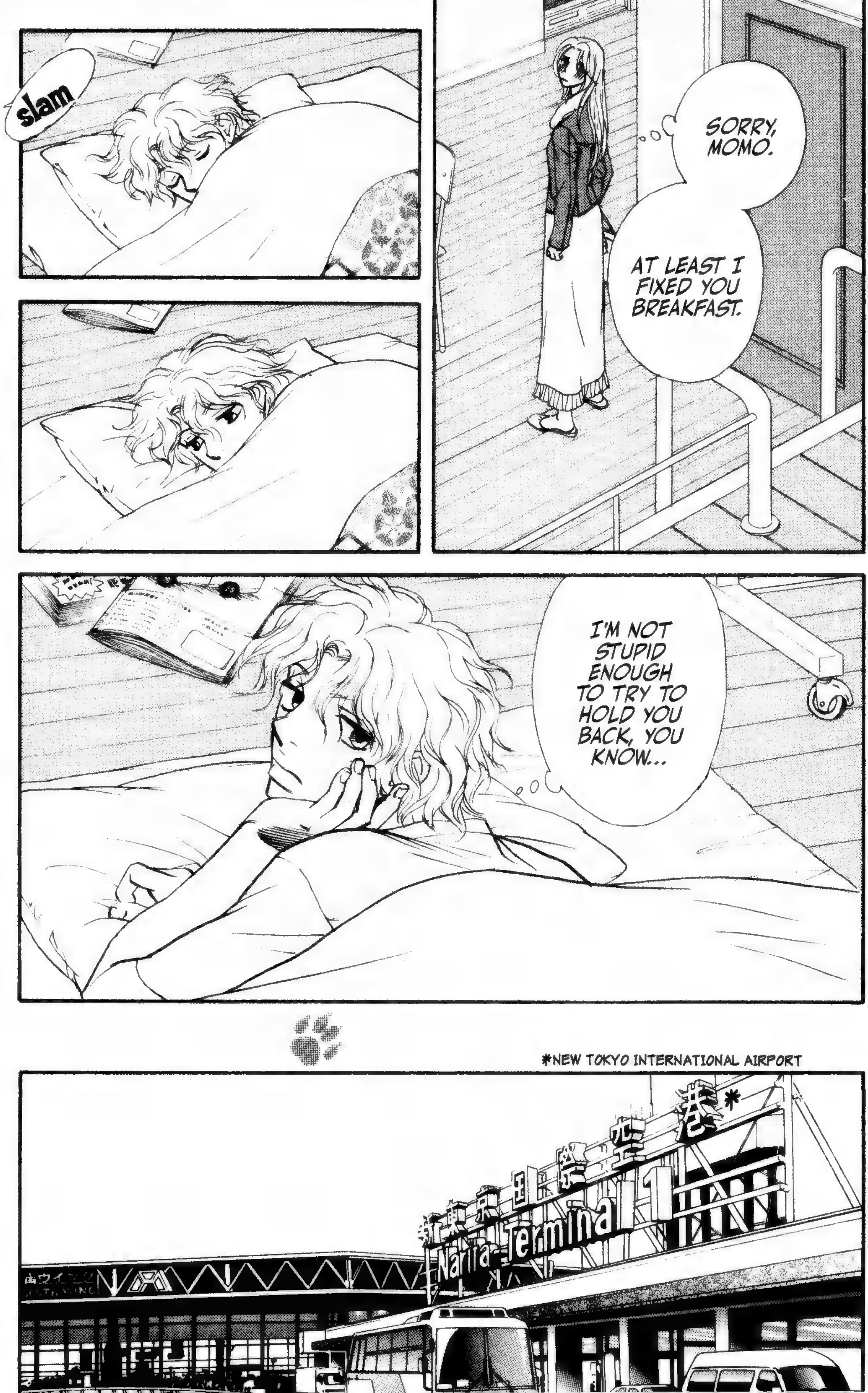
HEY, RUMI-CHAN!

THIS STUFF JUST CRACKS ME UP...
LOOK AT THIS PART. IN THE LIBRARY, THIS MAIN CHARACTER WAS BEING XXX AT XXX.
NO NEED TO EXPLAIN.
...AND THIS CAPTAIN OF SOCCER TEAM LOVES XXX.
I SAID, NO THANKS!!
BUT...
YOU'RE NOT SMILING, SUMIRE.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN CRYING...
I DON'T THINK IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH.
Shoop



OKAY, STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE.
WHY DO GAY GUYS... NEVER LOSE AT RUSSIAN ROULETTE?
......
WHY AM I SO INDECISIVE?
HOW DID I EVEN GET HERE IN LIFE?
Knock Knock
HEY... WHY'RE YOU MAD AT ME?
COME ON!
I'LL BE OKAY.
I CAN SEE HIM OFF.
Iwaya-home
RRRR

MS. IWAYA?
AH... SORRY. YOU'RE NOT IN BED YET?
FAR FROM IT.
I LEAVE TOMORROW AND I STILL HAVEN'T FINISHED PACKING.
WELL...
MAY I... COME OVER? I MEAN...
...I COULD HELP YOU PACK...
...AND GO WITH YOU TO THE AIRPORT... TO SEE YOU OFF.
AH...
OF COURSE!
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.
WOW! SHE'S STAYING OVER-NIGHT.
BREAKFAST


SORRY, MOMO.
AT LEAST I FIXED YOU BREAKFAST.
slam
I'M NOT STUPID ENOUGH TO TRY TO HOLD YOU BACK, YOU KNOW...
*NEW TOKYO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
新東京国際空港*
Narita Terminal 1

SORRY YOU DIDN'T GET ANY SLEEP LAST NIGHT.
I MEAN, I CAN SLEEP DURING THE FLIGHT, BUT YOU HAVE TO WORK...
IT'S OKAY.
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SLEEP.
I'LL E-MAIL YOU ONCE I GET SETTLED.
OKAY.
DON'T GO-- PLEASE!!
I CAN'T STAND TO BE AWAY FROM YOU, YUU-KUN!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED, MAKO-CHAN... I'VE GOT TO WORK...
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT-- ME? OR YOUR JOB?!
OH, YUU-KUN!
OH, MAKO-CHAN!
JEEZ!
I'D NEVER MAKE SUCH A DISPLAY OF MYSELF.
TEARS
TOUCHED

SHE'S SEEING HASUMI-KUN OFF AT THE AIRPORT TODAY.
...I KNOW THAT.
REMEMBER I ASKED YOU TO STEAL HER AWAY FROM HASUMI-SAN?
I'D LIKE TO CANCEL THAT REQUEST.
Y'MEAN... YOU'RE GIVING UP?
......
...YOU'LL BE FOOLED. THAT GIRL YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH...
...MS. IWAYA...IS ACTUALLY...
I COULDN'T TELL HIM...
...ABOUT HER PET.
I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT HIS FEELINGS.
NO.
JUST CHANGING MY PLANS.
sksh

IF I DID SNATCH HASUMI-SAN FROM HER...DO YOU THINK SHE'D TRY TO WIN HIM BACK?
...HEY.
AND I WON'T NEED YOUR HELP, SO JUST FORGET IT.
SEE YA!
SHE'S TOUGH.
出国手続
PASSPORT CONTROL
CUSTOMS
IMMIGRATION
WELL... THIS IS IT.
YES.
SMILE.
WAVE.

...NOPE.
I DON'T THINK SHE WOULD.
I DON'T THINK SO EITHER.
BUT WHY NOT? IS IT BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T REALLY WANT HIM?
DOES THAT MEAN SHE'D BE FINE WITHOUT HASUMI-SAN?
Snap
SHE WOULDN'T BE FINE.
I MEAN, IF I TOLD HER I WAS LEAVING HER TO BECOME YOUR PET...
...I DON'T THINK SHE'D TRY TO TAKE ME BACK, EITHER.
BUT SHE WOULDN'T BE OKAY WITH IT.
SHE'S NOT OKAY WITHOUT ME.

...SUMIRE'S A TRICKY ONE.
WELL...
...YOU'RE PRETTY CONFIDENT.
I ALMOST FEEL SHY NEXT TO YOU.
IF SHE WERE THE TYPE TO PURSUE ME...
...I WOULD HAVE ESCAPED BY NOW.
BUT THAT'S WHY...
...I STAY WITH HER.

バタン
ガチャ ガチャ
YOU'RE HOME!
......
ドサッ
drip

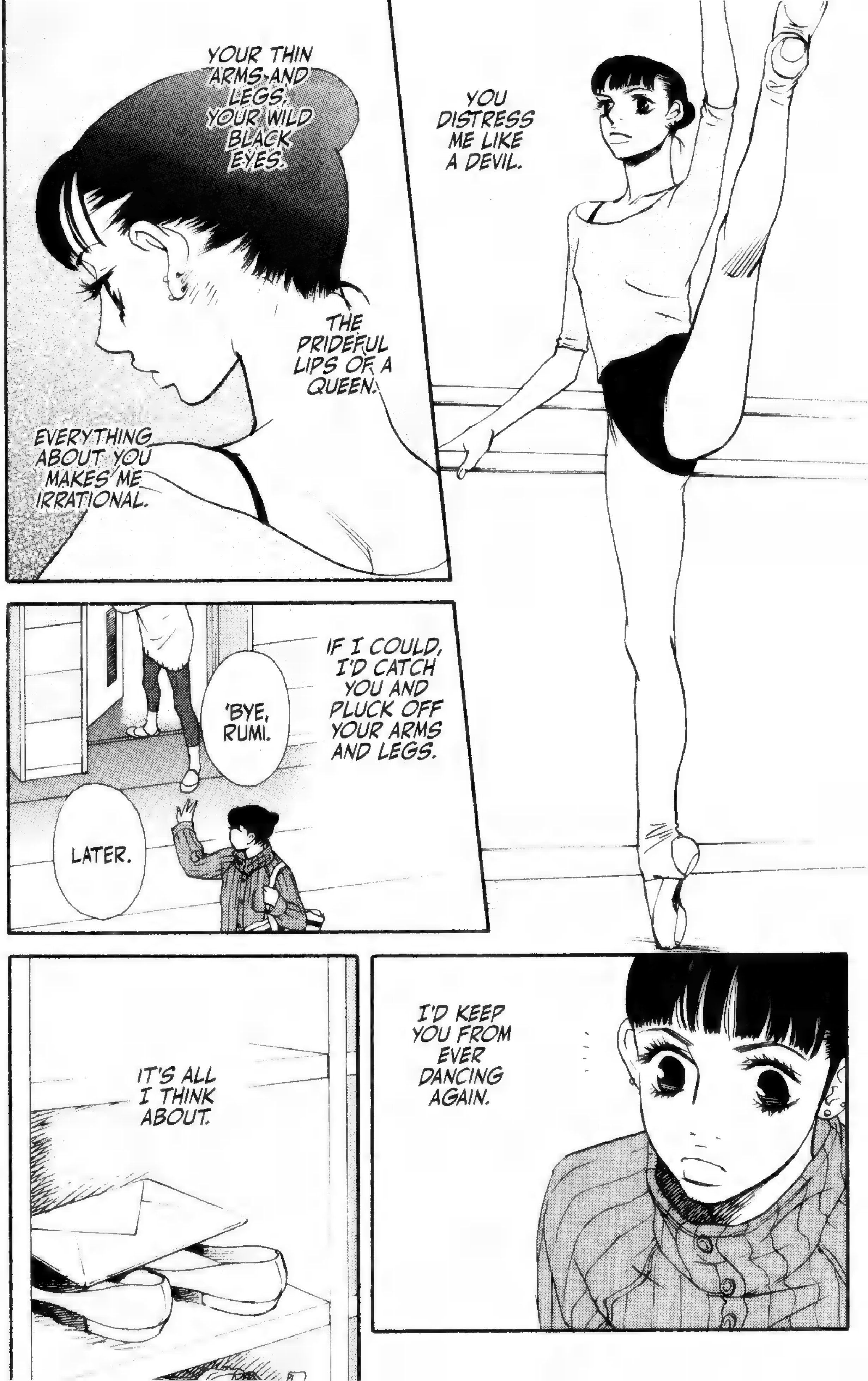
HE'S GONE...
HASUMI-SENPAI...
...HE'S... GONE...
SQUEEZE
THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
HOW COME YOU CRY WITH ME INSTEAD OF HIM?
YOU COULD LEARN A LITTLE FROM FUKUSHIMA-SAN.

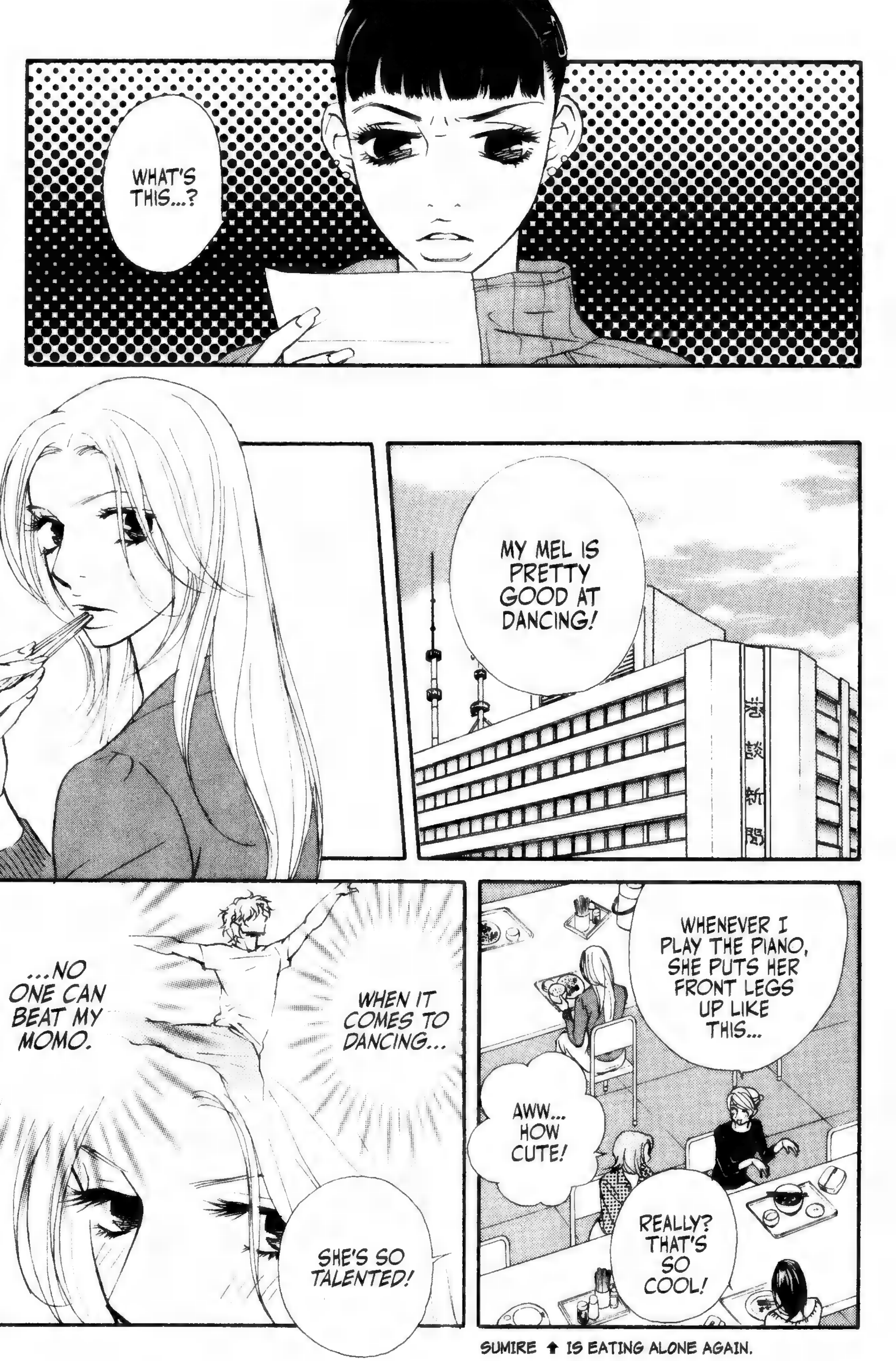
SOB...
WEEP...
BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE THIS...
...I'LL NEVER LEAVE.
I'LL STAY...
...IN THIS SOFT CAGE.

BY YOUR SIDE.
......
I WONDER WHY...
...I KEEP...
...THINKING OF HER...
HA! WHY DON'T EUNUCHS LOSE AT RUSSIAN ROULETTE?
HIC!
DESPERATELY DRUNK
SUMIRE... FOR THE HUNDREDTH TIME...

Rule34

WHEN PETS DANCE


YOU DISTRESS ME LIKE A DEVIL.
YOUR THIN ARMS AND LEGS, YOUR WILD BLACK EYES.
THE PRIDEFUL LIPS OF A QUEEN.
EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU MAKES ME IRRATIONAL.
IF I COULD, I'D CATCH YOU AND PLUCK OFF YOUR ARMS AND LEGS.
'BYE, RUMI.
LATER.
I'D KEEP YOU FROM EVER DANCING AGAIN.
IT'S ALL I THINK ABOUT.



SUMIRE ↑ IS EATING ALONE AGAIN.

I WISH I COULD TELL THEM.
I WANT TO BOAST ABOUT HIM.
BUT... IF THEY ASKED ANY QUESTIONS, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ANSWER.
POP
POP
POP
POP
Y'THINK THEY'D PUT HER ON TV?
THIS WEEK, PET PRIDE VISITS MS. IWAYA IN SHIBUYA!
SO THIS IS THE AMAZING DANCING MOMO?
MOMO-CHAN IS A YOUNG MALE HUMAN--HE'S EVEN LEARNED TO SPEAK!
WHAT'S YOUR SPECIALTY, MOMO?
THE GRAND JETER.
THAT'S AMAZING!
TEE HEE HEE!
...SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
MISS IWAYA.
...IWAYA.
HUH? OH!
SORRY.
COULD YOU PROOF THIS, PLEASE?

OH...
...THIS SOUNDS LIKE THE SHOW MOMO'S IN!
SHE'S A WEIRD ONE, ALL RIGHT... JAPANESE WOMEN USUALLY FALL FOR THE ROMANTIC APPROACH.
NO CHANGE IN FACIAL EXPRESSION
IDIOT...
...ANYTHING ELSE?
EH...
...NO.
MR. OSWALD?
MAY I GO WITH YOU WHEN YOU COVER THIS STORY?

THAT WAY, I CAN WATCH FROM THE PRESS SEATS.
IT'S A SMALL REVIEW, BUT I'LL MAKE SURE HE PRAISES YOU AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!
HOO-RAY!
ACTUALLY, I'M JUST A GUEST DANCER...
...SO GIVE RUMI-CHAN THE PRAISE.
OH...IS SHIBUSAWA-SAN PERFORMING TOO?
OH YEAH...
SHE'S MY PARTNER.
NOT MANY STUDENT DANCERS ARE ALLOWED TO PERFORM FOR A GALA PROGRAM.
MOMO AND RUMI-CHAN...
...THEY'RE SO CLOSE.
HMM...
HE'S GOT RICE ON HIS FACE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THIS IS SO CREEPY!
IT'S NOT EVEN HAND-WRITTEN!
WELL, HE MIGHT BE A STALKER.
WHY ARE YOU JOKING ABOUT THIS?
WELL...IT SOUNDS TO ME... LIKE A LOVE LETTER.
A LOVE LETTER?! HE WANTS TO PLUCK OFF MY ARMS AND LEGS!!
I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T WRITE AGAIN.
YOU DISTRESS ME LIKE
YOUR THIN ARMS AND LEGS.
YOUR WILD BLACK EYES.
THE PRIDEFUL LIPS OF A QUEEN.
EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU
MAKES ME IRRATIONAL.
IF I COULD, I'D CATCH YOU AND PLUCK
YOUR ARMS AND LEGS.
KEEP YOU FROM EVER DANCING AGAIN.
S ALL I EVER THINK ABOUT.

AH, TAKESHI ...
... YOU'RE SO AWESOME!

IT MUST BE TOUGH FOR YOU TO HAVE TWO DIFFERENT PARTNERS.
NOT REALLY.
OKAY, WE'LL START AT THE TOP.
SOUNDS GOOD.
RU--?!
SOMEONE TOOK MY CLOTHES!
HUH?!
RUMI-CHAN?!
WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU?!

SOMEONE TOOK MY CLOTHES, MY LEOTARD-- EVERYTHING!!
THEY'RE ALL GONE!!
EVEN YOUR UNDER-WEAR?
SOMEONE BROKE IN?
YOU CAN USE MY EXTRA TRAINING WEAR FOR NOW.
IT'S IN THE LOCKER.
MIKA-SAN...
AND YOU CAN BORROW MY COAT.
......
A BREAK-IN...?
A FEW DAYS LATER...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S DARK ALREADY.
THE SUN'S SETTING EARLIER THESE DAYS...

GUESS I SHOULD'VE WAITED FOR TAKESHI TO FINISH.
ギクッ
OH MY GOD...
...SOME-ONE'S STALKING ME!
ダッ
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff

HEY, MISS...
...WANNA BE ABDUCTED?
NO! NO! NO!
A PERVERT!
AN ALIEN!
HEY, HEY, HEY!
IT'S ME...ME!
WHY'D YOU DO THAT?!
I... THOUGHT YOU'D BE SURPRISED ...
OR SCARED SHITLESS!!!
I JUST WANTED TO CATCH UP...
...SO I COULD WALK YOU HOME.
HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME...
OUCH...

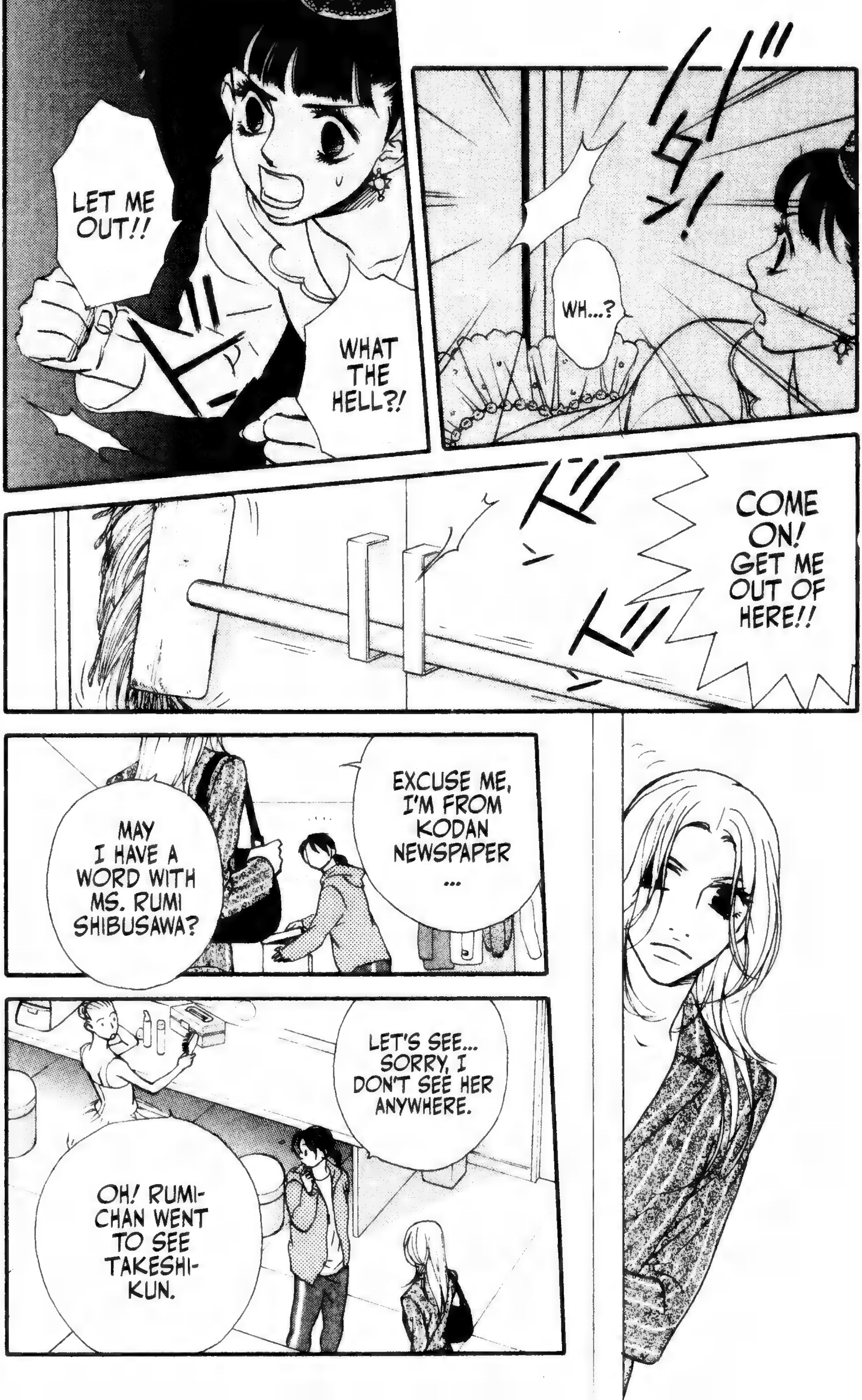
HEY, TAKESHI...
ARE WE...
...REALLY FINISHED?
WITH REHEARSALS?
NO, NOT REHEARSALS.
I'M TRYING TO SUBTLY IMPLY THAT I WANNA START DATING AGAIN!
NOT SUBTLE ANYMORE!
I SEE...
BUT...THIS IS ALL SO SUDDEN.
STOP ACTING LIKE YOU'RE IN A SOAP OPERA.
WELL...IT WAS YOU WHO DUMPED ME, REMEMBER?
YOU EVEN SLAPPED ME.
ONLY BECAUSE...
...I THOUGHT YOU WERE CHEATING ON ME WITH MIYUKI-SAN.
SORRY ABOUT THAT, BY THE WAY.
EH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! WE ONLY KISSED...
I KNEW YOU DID IT!!!

LOOK ...
DANCING IS THE ONLY TIME I CAN BE YOUR PRINCE.
I THOUGHT YOU'D REALIZED THAT BY NOW.
I JUST DON'T GET YOU!!
FINE! YOU DON'T LIKE ME.
NEXT TIME, JUST COME OUT AND SAY IT!
RUMI-CHAN--I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!
ACTUALLY ...
...I STILL LIKE YOU A LOT.
YOU DISTRESS ME...

...LIKE A DEVIL.
SO SHIBUSAWA-SAN HAS A STALKER?
LOOKS LIKE IT.
PERSONALLY, I'M A BIT SUSPICIOUS...
I MEAN, SHE COULD GET LETTERS AT HOME OR AT SCHOOL...
...BUT SO FAR, STRANGE THINGS HAVE ONLY HAPPENED AT THE STUDIO AND THEATRE.
THEN SHE MIGHT BE IN DANGER DURING TOMORROW'S PERFORMANCE.
YOU SHOULD KEEP AN EYE ON HER.
YEAH... BUT I CAN'T WATCH OVER HER IN THE LADIES DRESSING ROOM...
...OR WHEN I'M ON STAGE.
DO YOU DANCE WITH ANYONE ELSE IN THE SHOW?
SUGARPLUM FAIRY
MEDORA
YEAH--MIKA KANO FROM THE DANCE COMPANY. I DANCE *LE CORSAIRE* WITH HER...
...AND *THE NUTCRACKER* WITH RUMI-CHAN.

THEN I'LL COVER THE DRESSING ROOM. I CAN PRETEND TO BE INTERVIEWING.
IF THE STALKER IS A MAN, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO JUST WALK IN UNNOTICED.
RUMI-CHAN?
OH, MIKA-SAN.
TAKESHI-KUN ASKED ME TO FIND YOU...
DID HE?
YEAH, YOU WEREN'T AT PRACTICE THE PAST FEW DAYS.
I GUESS HE WANTS TO REHEARSE WITH YOU.

HE SAYS HE'S WAITING FOR YOU IN THAT ROOM.
AFTER THAT LETTER, I SKIPPED DRESS REHEARSAL...
TAKESHI MUST BE MAD AT ME.
WELL, I'VE GOT TO GET READY. SEE YOU LATER.
TAKESHI ...?
HUH?
THESE ARE MY CLOTHES THAT GOT STOLEN!
WHAT'RE THEY DOING HERE...?


WH...?
LET ME OUT!!
WHAT THE HELL?!
COME ON! GET ME OUT OF HERE!!
EXCUSE ME, I'M FROM KODAN NEWSPAPER ...
MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH MS. RUMI SHIBUSAWA?
LET'S SEE... SORRY, I DON'T SEE HER ANYWHERE.
OH! RUMI-CHAN WENT TO SEE TAKESHI-KUN.

MOMO...?
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
EVEN THE DIRECTOR SAID IT WAS GREAT!
BUT...
I CAN'T BEAT RUMI-CHAN'S NUTCRACKER.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN COMPETE WITH THE REAL LOVERS...
OH ...?
"THE REAL ..."
HUH? WE'RE NOT LIKE THAT.
I MEAN, WE DATED ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO...
...BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT. (SHE LIKED TO SOLVE ARGUMENTS WITH VIOLENCE.)
......

BESIDES...
...I HAVE SOMEONE ELSE WHO'S PRECIOUS TO ME NOW.
MOMO!
HEY--DID YOU CALL SHIBUSAWA-SAN?
NOPE. WHY?
MOMO!?
SHE'S NOT IN THE DRESSING ROOM. I WAS TOLD SHE WAS WITH YOU!
SHIT!!
TIGHTS!?

I CHECKED ALL THE LADIES' ROOMS.
SHE CAN'T BE OUTSIDE ...
HERE'S A GUARD.
LET'S ASK IF HE SAW HER.
EXCUSE ME...
UH...YOU CAN'T GO IN HERE!
EH?
WHY NOT?
IT'S RESERVED FOR AN HONORED GUEST.
BAM
BAM
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
......

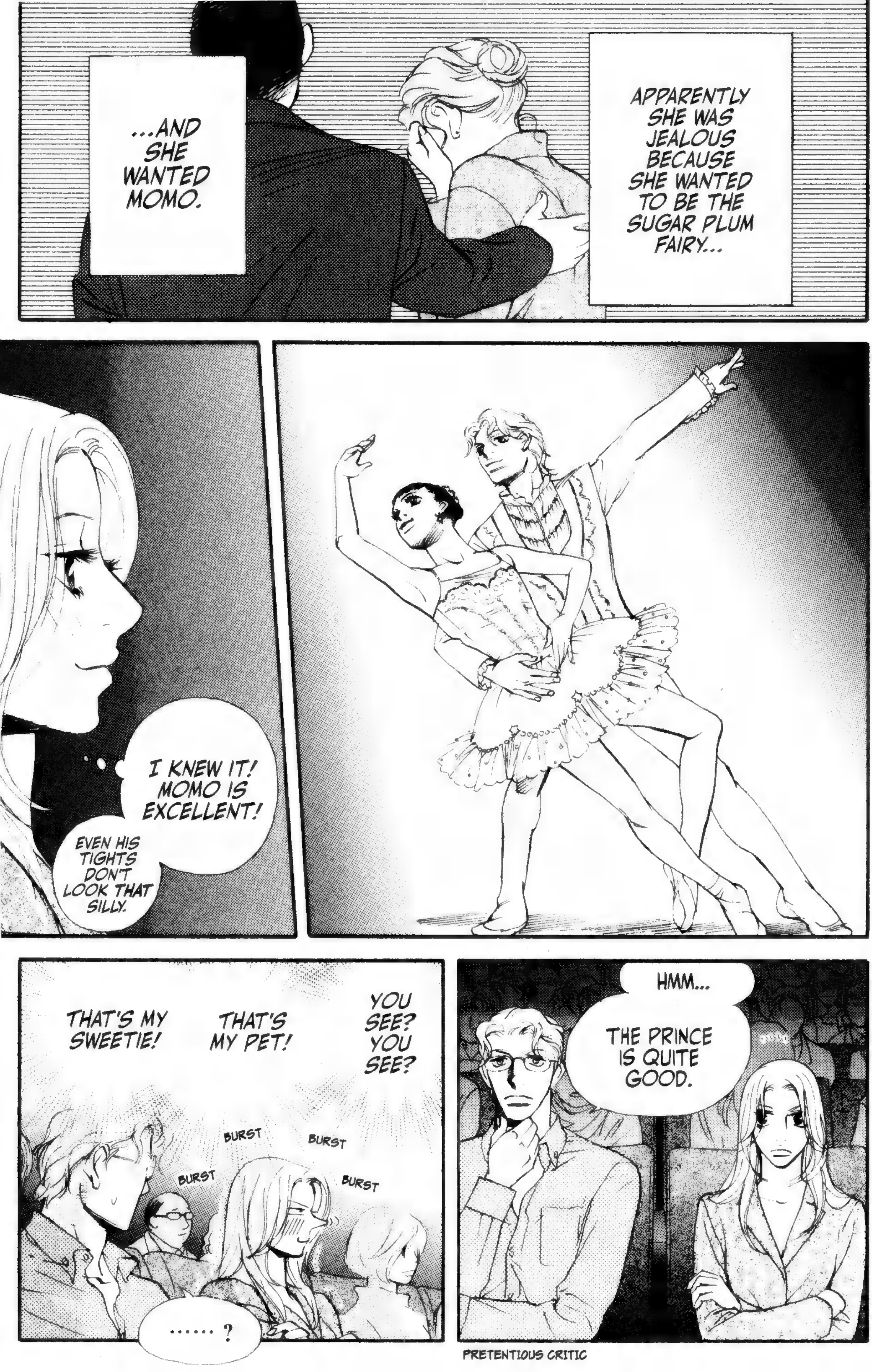
...LOOK.
HIS UNIFORM...
...IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER SECURITY GUARDS'.
ダッ
!
SUMIRE!
FIND SHIBUSAWA-SAN!
SOB...
WEEP...
I'M SCARED...
MOM...
MY BROTHER...
TAKESHI...

NO... TAKESHI WON'T COME FOR ME.
'CAUSE I PUSHED HIM AWAY.
BUT I LIKED HIM SO MUCH...
...I REALLY LIKED HIM!
カチャッ
THERE YOU ARE!
T-TAKESHI ...?

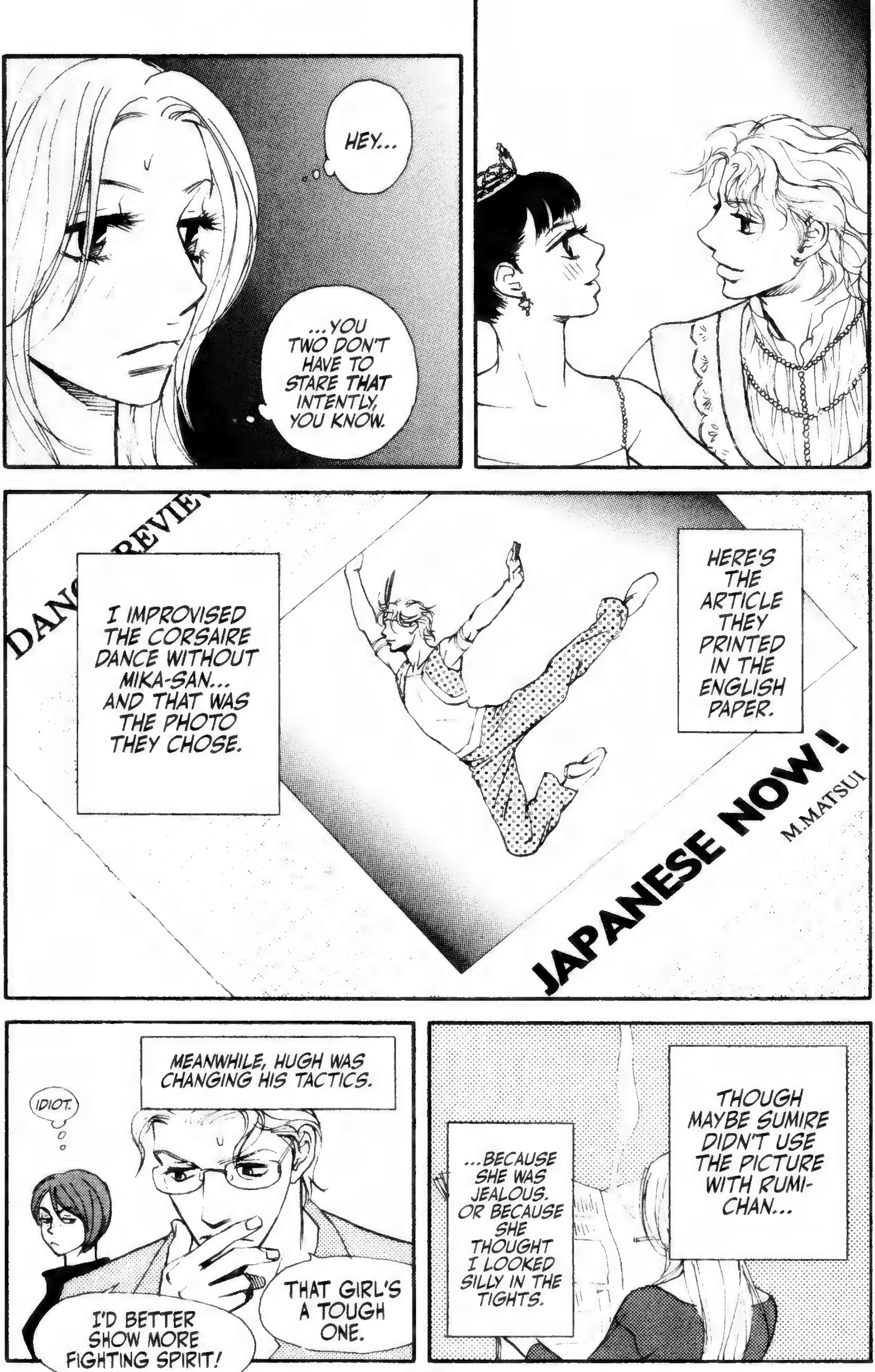
WAAAAAH!
IT'S OKAY... IT'S OKAY...
MS. IWAYA...
...SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE BY NOW.
MAYBE I'LL ASK HER FOR DRINKS AFTER THE PERFORMANCE.
HER BOYFRIEND JUST WENT OVERSEAS...
...SO SHE SHOULD BE ON THE REBOUND RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

MR. OSWALD!
STOP HIM!!
HUH?
WHAT?!
STAY BACK!
WATCH--

GOTCHA!
You're under arrest!
WHY IN ENGLISH?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING? HELP ME!!
UH...YES.
THE FAKE SECURITY GUARD TOLD US...
...HE WAS ONLY DOING WHAT MIKA-SAN ASKED HIM TO DO.



PRETENTIOUS CRITIC


HEY...
...YOU TWO DON'T HAVE TO STARE THAT INTENTLY, YOU KNOW.
HERE'S THE ARTICLE THEY PRINTED IN THE ENGLISH PAPER.
I IMPROVISED THE CORSAIRE DANCE WITHOUT MIKA-SAN... AND THAT WAS THE PHOTO THEY CHOSE.
JAPANESE NOW!
M.MATSUI
THOUGH MAYBE SUMIRE DIDN'T USE THE PICTURE WITH RUMI-CHAN...
...BECAUSE SHE WAS JEALOUS. OR BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT I LOOKED SILLY IN THE TIGHTS.
MEANWHILE, HUGH WAS CHANGING HIS TACTICS.
THAT GIRL'S A TOUGH ONE.
IDIOT.
I'D BETTER SHOW MORE FIGHTING SPIRIT!

THE END

MASTER ARTIST K-KO (ASSISTANT)
HASUMI-SENPAI
THAT PENDANT...COULD IT BE, BY ANY CHANCE...?

MASTER ARTIST ASSASIN (HUSBAND)
KUMANGO-KUN
YOU CAN TELL IT'S SUMIRE FROM THE POSE.

MASTER ARTIST SHIMA (ASSISTANT)
SUMIRE
SEXY ♡ SUMIRE!

MASTER ARTIST MATSU
[MANAGING EDITOR]
HASUMI-SENPAI
EXACTLY LIKE FAN ART (ACCORDING TO ONE ASSISTANT).

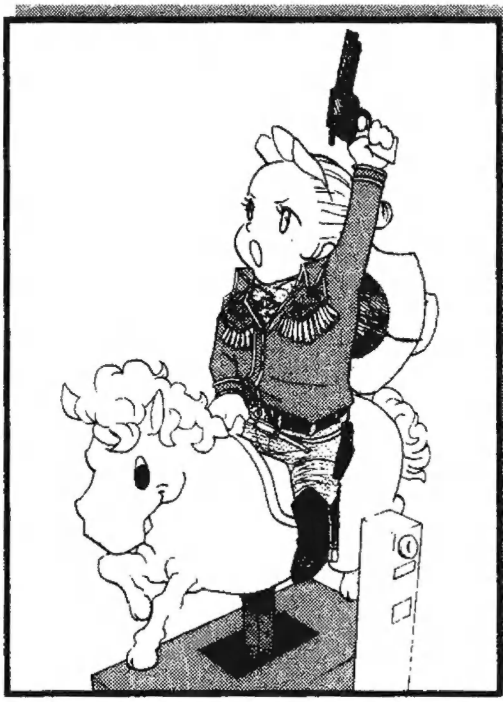
THE FRIENDS OF YAYOI OGAWA PRESENT...

♥♥♥♥♥

YOU'RE MY PET PORTRAIT GALLERY!

WHERE ASSISTANTS, EDITORS AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN *YOU'RE MY PET* ATTEMPT THEIR OWN CHARACTER PORTRAITS...IT'S ART FROM THE HEART!

MASTER ARTIST MEGUMI IGARASHI (FRIEND)
YURI-CHAN'S MOTHER
SHE IS "THE PROFESSIONAL"! AND PETTO-CHAN IS SO COOL! ♡



MASTER ARTIST JUNJUN (ASSISTANT)
RAN-CHAN
SO BRAVE...SHE COULD BE THE MAIN CHARACTER OF A MANGA!

MASTER ARTIST K-KO (ASSISTANT)
MOMO
I HAVE THE WORD "MOMO" TATTOOED ON MY ARM (SHE SAYS).

Story notes!

YOUR PET'S PRIVATE LIFE

(M)

AROUND THE TIME WE WERE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS STORY, WE WENT TO SEE A DOCUMENTARY WHICH WAS ABOUT THE OPERA BALLET COMPANY OF PARIS. IT'S SO GREAT THAT MOMO GOT TO STUDY THERE!

(O)

SO I WROTE IN A FAMOUS FOREIGN CHOREOGRAPHER CHARACTER. I INEVITABLY HAD AN IMAGE IN MY HEAD OF THE REAL CHOREOGRAPHER, WILLIAM FORSYTHE--BUT I WANTED HIM TO BE FRENCH, SO I GAVE IT A VERY FORCED FRENCH SPELLING: FAUCHITE. KIND OF A STRETCH, I KNOW!! THE BEST PART OF THIS EPISODE WAS MY DEAR ASSISTANT'S DRAWING OF PI-PO-KUN.* SO FULL OF POWER AND BEAUTY!

*PI-PO-KUN, MASCOT OF THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE, MAKES A CAMEO APPEARANCE IN MOMO'S TRUNK OF STUFFED ANIMALS.

ON MYSTERIOUS TRIPS • PARTS 1 AND 2

(O)

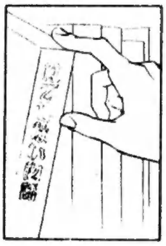
THIS IS THE RESULT OF THAT HOT SPRINGS COVERAGE WE MENTIONED IN VOLUME 5'S "MA-CHAN GOES FOR IT!" THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT WHILE THEY USED CELL PHONES IN THE MANGA, IN REAL LIFE WE WERE OUT OF RANGE! I WAS SHOCKED! SINCE THERE WERE SO MANY BACKGROUND SCENES, THE ASSISTANTS HAD A PRETTY HARD TIME WITH THIS STORY. BY THE WAY, IT'S SAID THAT MATSU CAN'T SWIM AT ALL...JUST LIKE SUMIRE.

BY THE WAY, DOESN'T MR. NISHIDA FROM THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT, WHO TOLD SUMIRE ABOUT MOMO'S PERFORMANCE, LOOK KIND OF LIKE THE DOCTOR FROM "ON STRANGE WALKS" IN VOLUME 3?

SOMETHING ABOUT HER

(O)

FOR SOME REASON I MADE HASUMI-KUN 'S FIGHTING POSE A "CAT PUNCH," SO I HAD TO REDRAW IT MANY TIMES. THEY'RE A PRETTY FUNNY COUPLE, DON'T YOU AGREE?



(M)

THE STORY PAYS HOMAGE TO A COUPLE DIFFERENT THINGS. THE FIRST IS A FRENCH NOVEL, *CIRCIE*. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL STORY ABOUT A LONG-FORGOTTEN CASTLE SLEEPING UNDERNEATH A VILLAGE DAM. THE OTHER IS *THE NEVERENDING STORY*, WHICH KAIRI ACTUALLY PULLS OFF THE SHELF IN THE STORY. THE THEME OF THIS BOOK IS WHAT ITS MAIN CHARACTER, BASTIAN, LEARNED--THAT STORIES ARE REALLY WORLDS CREATED BY FERTILE MINDS.

(O)

A SOFT CAGE

THE COVER PICTURE IS VERY '80S. SOON AFTER THIS STORY APPEARED IN THE MAGAZINE, MANY PEOPLE WROTE IN TO SAY, "I KNOW, SHIROKUMA (WHITE BEAR) IS SO DELICIOUS!" THAT'S WHY IT'S A SPECIAL PRODUCT IN KYUSHUU!

(M)

THE ARRANGEMENT MEETING FOR THIS STORY APPEARS ON A SPECIAL PAGE OF *KIMI WA PET--THE BEST.*** PLEASE TAKE A LOOK IF YOU'D LIKE! AFTER FINISHING THE MANUSCRIPT, WE HAD FUN CHANGING SUMIRE'S S INNER MONOLOGUE ON THE LAST PAGE TO READ "**5 SECONDS TO THE KILL.**"

**RELEASED IN JAPAN.

(M)

WHEN PETS DANCE

CONGRATS TO URIYAMA AND KURAKI ON THEIR MARRIAGE, I HAD NO IDEA! WHAT A SUPRISE. WHEN T-SAN, AN EDITOR AT *KISS MAGAZINE,* READ THE FLASHBACK SCENES OF SUMIRE'S STUDENT DAYS HE SAID HE WAS A BIT PUT OFF ON HOW MUCH OF A PLAIN NERDY GIRL SHE WAS.

(M)

ONE BALLET COMPANY ALLOWED US TO OBSERVE THEIR DRESS REHEARSAL TO GATHER INFORMATION. AFTER THAT, WHEN WE WERE TRYING TO HAVE OUR ARRANGEMENT MEETING, WE COULDN'T FIND A COFFEE SHOP BECAUSE IT WAS TOO LATE. WE ENDED UP WITH WALKING ALL THE WAY FROM THE ANTIQUE SHOPS STREET IN AOYAMA TO HARAJUKU STATION. AH, MEMORIES.

BY THE WAY, EMMA, WHO MAKES ALL THOSE SPICY COMMENTS TO HUGH, IS PRETTY CUTE, ISN'T SHE? KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE TWO!

(O)

ALTHOUGH MOMO MAINLY PRACTICES MODERN BALLET, HE PERFORMS THE PRINCE ROLE AS A GUEST (ACTUALLY A PART-TIMER) IN A CLASSICAL BALLET COMPANY. THAT'S THE SETTING FOR THIS STORY. SINCE MY BROTHER-IN-LAW, WHO COMPOSES DANCE MUSIC, IS SUCH A GOOD SOURCE OF INFORMATION, I'D LIKE TO TRY A STORY ABOUT MODERN BALLET NEXT TIME.

You're My Pet 6

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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